

SOUTHEND



AQUARISTS

THE SOUTHEND, LEIGH AND DISTRICT AQUARIST SOCIETY.
(founded 1938 or before)

The Society meets every first and third Tuesday in each month, at 8,00 P.M., at the NEW meeting hall.-

**ST .ANDREWS HALL
ELECTRIC AVENUE
WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA
ESSEX**

**BI-MONTHLY JOURNAL Number 18
JANUARY 1968**

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

D. Finch R. Wallings,

Steve Norris also acts as member with special responsibility for looking after new members

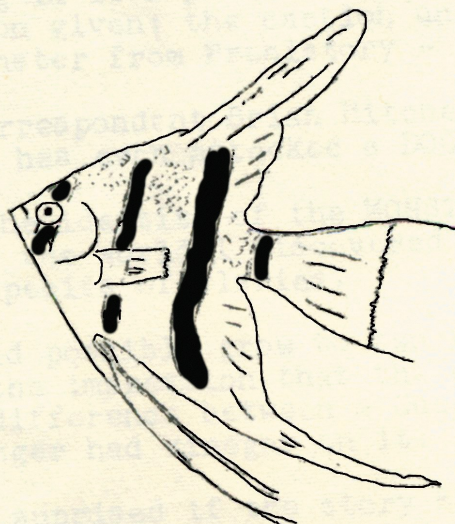
NOTICES

EDITORS OF CLUB MAGAZINES; PERISSION IS GIVEN TO REPRINT
S.L.A.D.AS. ARTICLES. A COPY OF THE MAGAZINE FOR THE AUTHOUR
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EDITORIAL

I am sure that all members will wish to join me in thanking John Mason our retiring President for all his work for the Society in the past. John took over the chair at a time when our club's fortunes were poor and has successfully led us for SIX YEARS. John retires at a time when the Society is more popular than for many a year. I am sure a great deal of the renewed enthusiasm is due to John's efforts.

THANK YOU JOHN .

SIX. FOOT TROPICAL FISH

The London Zoo Aquarium has what is claimed to be the- biggest tropical fish in this country.

This is a six foot Arapaima which the Zoo bought from a Buenos Aires dealer in 1962 when it was only 18 inches long. The fish eats a dozen herrings and whiting a day.

Hmm! wonder whether we could borrow it for an Inter-club table show?

GOLDFISH SETS FIRE TO HOUSE

In case my headline gives rise to a pyromaniacal fish rushing around with a box of matches as revenge for having been fed on leathery ants eggs perhaps I had better explain that it was his bowl that caused the fire.

According to the Dorset Fire Brigade the fire was started by sunlight passing through a goldfish bowl, the bowl acted as a burning lens.

Here is yet another reason for destroying all those revolting round bowls in addition to being most unsuitable for fish they may also set your house on fire into the bargain.

THE JOURNAL

The Journal is in need of copy to continue publication we must have interesting material - from what I hear of conversations at meetings many of you have interesting aquatic experiences, why not tell everybody about them through the JOURNAL. Do not worry about your English we can sort it out, don't even worry about the paper you write it on one of our contributors claims to write on 'bus tickets.

S.L.A.D.A.S. IS THIRTY (AT LEAST !!!)

by P.F. Capon.

Thanks to the kindness of Horace Giles, who has been kind enough to lend us his file of old JOURNALS, letters etc, we now know far more than we did about the earlier days of **S.L.A.D.A.S.**

Our area had an aquarist society before the war, it was known as the **SOUTHEND AND DISTRICT AQUARIST SOCIETY.**

This Society held a show at the Kursaal in 1938, so it is probable that the Society existed before this date. This club was apparently disbanded at the outbreak of hostilities, but the club was formed as soon as the war was over, by four of the original committee member. This society was named the **Leigh and District Aquarist Society.**

On October the 29th the name of the club was changed to **SOUTHEND, LEIGH, .AND DISTRICT AQUARIST SOCIETY.**

We believe that we can claim to be related to the old SOUTHEND SOCIETY through Horace Giles membership.

MILESTONES QF S.L.A.D.A.S.

March 17 1946 .

Society reformed as the Leigh and District Aquarists Society.

July 14 1946

First outing - to the London Zoo (only five turned up)

July 20 1946.

Library started with three books (lend us one, Steve'.)

December 11 1946

First monthly Newsletter

October 18 1947

First post war show with Fur & Feather display

October 29 1947.

Name changed to SOUTHEND, LEIGH AND DISTRICT AQUARISTS.

April 30 1948;

First JOURNAL,

Should any one have any more information on our history it will help our Journal to last another 20 years!

ALRIGHT. SO I MADE .MISTAKE.

by Jacqueline Norris

After the birth of my second daughter two years ago I had the normal depressions and remarked to my other half that what I needed was a hobby. "Don't worry, I'll get you a hobby" was the swift reply and I promptly forgot all about it. A few days later in he struggles with a rusty old tank. that he'd persuaded our local fishmonger (yes fishmonger.!) to part with and. announced " Well here it is, your hobby."

Well, this was all very fine, but if the truth were known this was just his crafty way of introducing fish into the house, a move that I had vetoed previously owing to his interest in birds, (feathered and otherwise I'm sure) and the fact that the aviary was taking up too much of his time. Never the less, the tank. was installed and it looked awful, But I will say that he persevered and things began to improve when fish and plants were established although to me the tank was still an eyesore.

A trip to a certain shop solved this problem and we returned complete with a three foot bow fronted tank stand , filters the lot, and during this I must admit I had no interest at all in my hobby. Things progressed until we had five tanks in the lounge and there was still no interest on my part. I'd feed then but that was about it.

Then it happened ! About the middle of September (67) I was just about to feed the perishers when I noticed the fish in one tank were all crowed to the surface in one corner. Aeration, I thought but after twenty minutes or so there was no change and by chance I happened to touch the glass and found that the first tank seemed exceptionally cold. Then I felt the next - and the next - and the next. Result four out of five tanks - icy cold. Sudden panic !

It wasn't a fuse because the lights were O.K., I thought phone Steve and see what he suggests, but things were not to be that easy and I was laughingly informed that he had gone to Felixtowe for the day and wasn't likely to be back until 4 o'clock and it was now 9.45 a.m.

What to do ? Well I thought, not knowing anything about these fish except that they liked warm water, I'd better raise the temperature as the thermometer was reading 52 degrees 5;so I upped all the thermostats and stood watching the thermometer with baited breath. At that time we had only one thermometer so I was changing it from tank to tank, fiddling-- with 'stats and worrying. The fish didn't seem the least interested in food, they just kept up crowded near the lights.

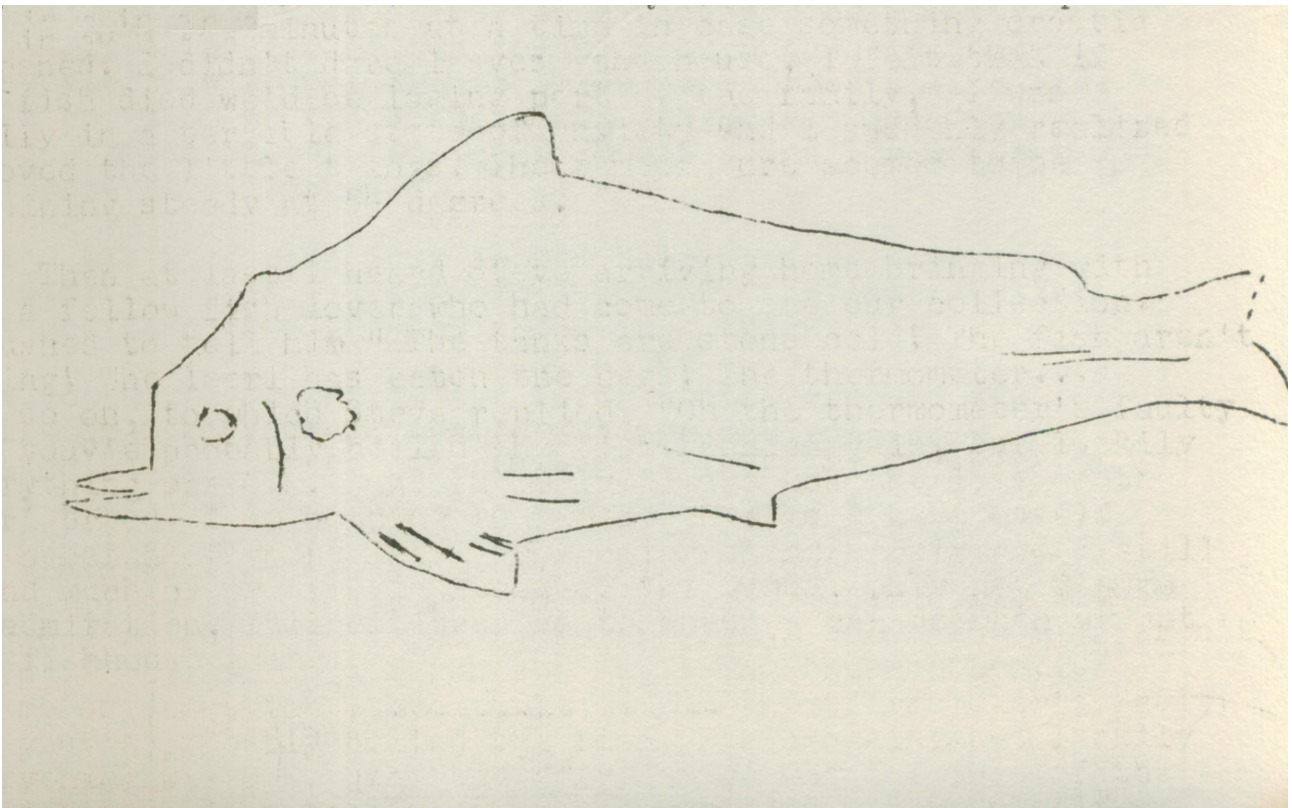
There I was stuck, in front of these tanks frightened to move; then I realized that Steve had a spawning of Leeris in one tank., in fact the eggs weren't far off hatching and there was only the tiniest rise in temperature. All the day long I was with those tanks, not daring to move away for more than a few minutes at a time in case something drastic happened. I didn't dare leave the house, I felt that if the fish died we'd be losing part of the family, I was really in a terrible state of anxiety and I suddenly realized I loved the little things. The temperature seemed to be remaining steady at 54 degrees.

Then at last I heard Steve arriving home bringing with him a fellow fish lover who had come to see our collection. I rushed to tell him " The tanks are stone cold'. The fish aren't eating', the leeri has eaten the eggs.. The thermometer..." and so on, to which Steve replied, "Oh the thermometer's faulty but you've probably boiled the fish. Panic again, but luckily everything was O.K. and the only damage was the loss of the leeri brood. I am hoping to remedy this as I have myself now a batch of young leeri fry coming along nicely and I still spend much of my time in front of the tanks, only now I gaze in admiration, full of ideas as to what we can do when we get our fishhouse going.

165 Million YEAR OLD FISH

by P.F. Capon.

Mr Samuel Hansford of Charmouth has found a fossil of a fish on the beach at Charmouth, Dorset. The fossil is fourteen inches long, it would appear to be a new species as the British museum cannot identify it. The fish is reproduced below:-



BUILDING A POND - THE HARD WAY !

(continued from our last issue)

by N. Sellers.

I still have four of these tench left, their having proved more hardy than the six goldfish that I introduced at about the same time. Unfortunately they are not particularly spectacular being only a greenish colour.

Three months ago following a long period of lack of interest in an "object" now rapidly approaching the designation of "eye-sore". Being simply a rectangular box , situated in the middle of the lawn, containing a mass of rotting vegetation, and the occasional white flower in the summer months. The marginal plants have long since departed.

I decided that I would either " fill it in " or make it the foundation of a larger pond - in other words it lose it ". I fortunately decided upon the latter course and this time ventured on a change of design - an octagonal one this time.

The shuttering was a work of art, as no doubt you can imagine - trying to keep two series of eight pieces of wood together to form two circles one -within the other. I succeeded in doing this with the aid of two lengths of stout wire to which I stapled the outer boards.

The soil was removed to a depth of about six inches around the existing pond and roughly to the area, of the area of the octagon...Thus when a four inch concrete base was laid in a retaining lip of two inches around the old pond this prevented the gravel from the new part from falling in. The outer boards were ten inches deep, the inner ones six inches, the gravel depth two inches hence a shallow water depth of some three inches.

The walls were also four inches thick and as a precaution I cement rendered (3 sand to 1 cement) the inner walls to about one inch from the top and a ¼ inch thick.

I allowed the cement to set for a month, removed the old brick-work and lintel, washed out the new pond area, and painted it with white cement paint. Then I left it for a further week, "gravelled" it , and overflowed the old pond with a hose to fill the new addition to within one inch of the top.

Again the cement paint treatment proved a success and no seepage occurred.

The fish seem to enjoy swimming around the shallows and the new pond and it's shape. The distant view of the new pond gave it an added charm over the old "square box".

I hope next year to purchase some new fish and marginal plants and also install a fountain.

Many would say " too much like hard work" but I feel now that this has been a job worth doing.

Incidentally the "shuttering" for the octagonal pond giving a diameter of approximately eight feet is still available for a " nominal fee" to any member who would. like to have a go and for those who say " not likely" there is always a free viewing by appointment.

BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE ZOO

by D.W. Roberts. F.Z.S.

As far back as history records, man has delighted in marveling at animals exhibited in Zoos - or more properly Zoological Gardens. A certain Chinese Emperor entertained guests in his "garden" in the 12th century B.C.

Henry I of England had his own Royal Menagerie, and so did Louis XIV at Versailles. But until the 19th century zoos existed almost exclusively for the enjoyment of Royalty or the very rich. Today, men women and children all over the world can gape at elephants and giraffes, and they do - in increasing numbers. Zoos from Tokyo to London draw millions of visitors each year.

London Zoo, started as long ago as 1829, in a corner of Regent's Park, now covers 36 acres and maintains the largest collection of living animals in the world. At the present time there are more than 1,500 different species in the Zoo.

As the various buildings had been built over the years with different aims in mind, the Society relized that a new overall plan was needed to give the Zoo a new look. The plan, devised by Sir Hugh Casson, was started in 1960.

Where possible, iron bars to cages are being swept away and replaced by moats, and the gardens are being redesigned to exploit the natural beauties of the site and provide healthy conditions for the animals. The rebuilding program will be completed by 1975. The Zoo has, of course, to cope with problems of sick animals. The animal hospital, quarantine station and Pathology department were completed in 1965.

The hospital is one of the best equipped in the world and the recovery rate of the animals has improved dramatically since its inception.

Acquiring the animals poses a difficult problem, for a Zoo cannot collect any rare animals that are in danger of becoming extinct, but on the other hand, if there is no hope of saving the species in the wild, the Society has an obligation to obtain sufficient material for a detailed study of the behavior, physiology and anatomy of the species before it is lost forever.

London Zoo discourages the collection of those species which do not thrive in captivity and those which, in the past, either suffered a high death rate in transit or were captured only after wasteful slaughter. The Society is doing its best to aid conservation. It is encouraging the bringing together of pairs of rare creatures, rather than keeping a potential pair of breeding animals separately.

The Society sent its female Arabian Oryx, a survivor of a species now numbering little more than an hundred animals in the world, to a breeding herd in Arizona.

Another case in point is the match making negotiated between Chi-Chi, London's Giant Panda, and An-An, Russia's male Panda.

The Zoo's animals come from a number of sources – many come from International dealers, some are given by individuals many are born in the gardens, a number arrive as unwanted pets and many are exchanged with other Zoos.

Another vast problem at such a large Zoo as London's is one of feeding, the cost of which amounts to £40,000 a year. Some of the items in a year's shopping should interest readers:-

320 tons of hay,
100 tons of meat,
20,000 eggs,
22,000 pints of milk,
38,000 pounds of bananas,
8,000 pounds of tomatoes,
34,000 pounds of grapes,
3,000 bushels of cabbages
50 tons of carrots,
40 tons of potatoes,
and 60,000 lettuces,

as well as many other things.

The food is issued daily from a main store to all parts of the Zoo, but the individual keepers prepare the food for their charges, as the London Zoo believes, only the keeper knows his animals peculiar likes and dislikes.

The elephants eat almost two tons of hay, large amounts of root vegetables and three hundred weight of sugar cane (scarce in Great Britain) a week. The lion house receives 1,900 pounds of meat a week.

Fussy feeders can be an additional problem. The Kiwi, they once had used to devour 400 pounds of earthworms a year, which were very hard to obtain.

Several people in Great Britain send regular consignments of bamboo for the Giant Panda.

In winter the Giraffes browse on the bark and leaves of Evergreen Oak supplied in five lorry loads from the Earl of Leicester's estate.

Keepers have also to watch how much food the public feeds to the animals , so that they do not over feed them at meal times.

(Since Mr Roberts wrote this article the London Zoo has banned the public feeding of tit-bits to the animals - to safeguard the animals health -- editor)

Among the multitudinous ventures in the scientific direction, the Zoo has formed an Institute of Comparative Medicine, where diseases common to man and animals can be studied.

Another set of laboratories called the Institute of Comparative Physiology, have also been built. Here, systematic research can be made into reproductive and other processes of different creatures. There is also a large photographic unit, and a new up to date breeding room for fish.

The Aquarium is the most elaborate building in the Zoo. Nearly 150 yards long; it contains reservoirs of 60,000 gallons of fresh water. The sea water hall is supplied with regular shipments of water from the Bay of Biscay.

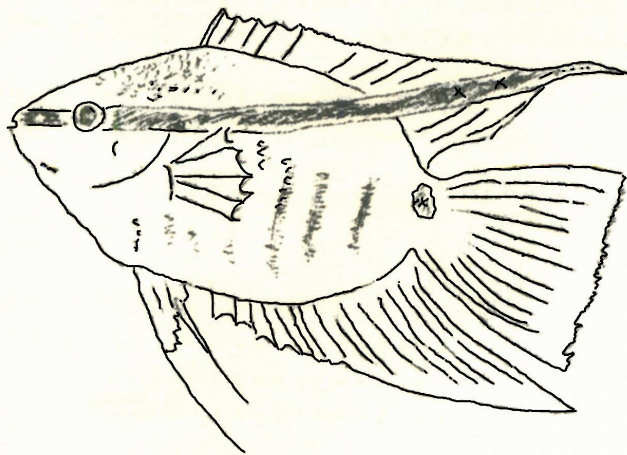
This is only a brief outline of behind the scenes at the London Zoo, but enough has been said to show it's vastness.

TILAPIA. NAME CHANGE.

by P.F .Capon.

According to Dr G.W. Coulter of the Zambian Department of Fisheries *Tilapia mossambica* is more correctly known as *Tilapia mortimeri* ——— S.L.A.D.A.S. has SCOOPED the professional magazines

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EXCHANGE REVIEWS

by Steve Morris

It would appear that I am in the red owing to buying new books for our library, whilst I must admit that there is a lot of information in the magazines that we get I would like to build a library of hard-backed books with more detailed information on a greater variety of fish.

I think we have made a good start with the books that we have, plus the magazines; but as librarian I will not be satisfied with my own efforts until we have a library as comprehensive as THE BRITISH MUSEUM or near enough. If anybody has any ideas as to how we can achieve this please let me know;;as usual I will do my best, and try and wring some more money out of club funds. If not—DRINK MORE TEA !

ICHTHYOPHILE The Fish lovers Notebook. We are now beginning a nice collection of these little booklets which are, in their own words "Original in concept and thought provoking offering stories, choice breeders secrets, and Tropical Fish Pin-ups"
There are some very colourful illustrations including a whole cover of the Platy Parade - there are 15 varieties.

PETFISH MONTHLY (Sept) with regard to a previous discussion in the club on aerators there is an interesting two page article in this edition designed to help the aquarist make the best selection for his own particular use.. ^A lot more on guppies in this issue and an enlightening talk on angels.

In the November issue there is an article on *-Aphyosemion* species. If you experience difficulty in breeding these colourful little fish you may find this magazine of some assistance, the article is written by P.J. Pawley.

The December issue of the **AQU/ARIST** is exceptionally interesting throughout, an. article by Frank Partington entitled "Danger from *Cryptocoryne hartellana* discusses the question as to whether this plant is harmful to certain fishes.

The Celebes Rainbow fish is rarely mentioned at our meetings. but I feel sure that some one has kept them at one time or another and has found difficulty in breeding them.
There is an interesting account on their breeding in the Junior. section of this magazine.

Sterility in fancy Guppies - our Best Fish of the Year winner has suffered this (surely you mean his guppies suffered it -- Editor). The problem is raised in the **COLORADO AQUARIST** (Oct) it seems that one of the causes could be a deficiency of vitamin E. There is also some advice on traveling with fish.

Lastly the fish of the month in the October **Aqua Jewels** is the *Danio*, some useful information here.

KAISERFISCHE

by D.W. Roberts, FZS

The Germans call them Kaiserfische or Emperor fishes, and both English and German titles pay tribute to the colourful beauty of the butterfly fishes,

Characterized by black: and white stripes, and sometimes a few black spots on a brilliant yellow or orange base, they are among the most glamorous marine species to be seen.

All of them have pointed snouts, in addition to spikes in front of the dorsal fin. Unfortunately the Pacific species are far more delicate than their West Indian counterparts and unless .caught very young are certain to die of starvation. They will reject all kinds of live or dried food if they have been caught when over three inches long.

Although they are said to live near coral reefs numerous larger specimens may be seen gamboling in three or four foot of water.

The Butterfly fishes belong to the tribe of marine "dentists" all of which are characterized by yellow markings of some kinds and which minister to larger fishes by the coral reefs, visited by the latter for the purpose of having their teeth picked.

It is said that the creatures never molest the little creatures which swim in and out of their jaws with impunity.

MY GUPPY

by Steve Norris

Little guppy minimize
Chased a molly twice it's size,
Now the price he has to pay
He's put her in the guppy way.

-16-
CLUB NEWS.

Meeting November 17.

John Mason gave us a talk. on fishkeeping and the shopkeeper, highlighting the humorous and heartbreaking side of being on the other side of the counter.

TOOTH-CARP TABLE SHOW

1. ..A.J. Mason.....lyretail.
- 2.. .D. Edwards.....*playfairi*
- 3...M.J. Willis.....*bivittatum*
- 4.. .B. Dunn..... *gularis*
- 4, ..P.F. Capon.....*milesi*

The show was judged for us by Ed Niccol of Thurrock club, Ed recently qualified as a F.B.A.S. judge.

The raffle of a trio of *Aphyosomion vexelifera* was won by that Capon fellow (ban him from the raffles - Editor).

The winner of the fry rearing competition, Bob Wallings, was handed his prize of ten shillings. Steve Morris immediately pointed out that Bob had not yet paid his subscription so all Bob got was half a crown. PALS !!

Meeting November 7 ,

Marine night - again we saw Michael's marvelous selection of slides of marine fishes; the attendance -was not too good this could probably be put down to the fact that most members saw this slide show -when we were hosts to Basildon and Thurrock for the Inter-Club table show.

The raffle of a pair of Hi-Fin Platys was won by Ray Bloxham (I prefer the name of Simpson Platys since a certain Mr Simpson was responsible for starting this interesting strain of platy and sword varieties. The Axelrod organisation dubbed the type Hi-fin thus depriving Mr Simpson of recognition for his work)

Meeting November 21

The Annual general meeting; the best supported for years there was hardly room to move in the hall. The attendance at A.G.M. is a measure of the success of the Society,

The officers elected are recorded on page 3; the elected committee would like to thank all members for their support.

They would also like to thank Mr D. .Roberts for his offer to serve on the committee, this is the second year Mr Roberts has unsuccessfully offered his services -- thank you.

The enthusiasm of all members should ensure 1968 being a very good year for S.L.A.DA.S.

Raffle winner were:-

- 1..Christine Russel.....four thick-lip gouramis
- 2...DW. Robertsfour leopard danios
- 3...Ted Thompson.....four checker barbs
- 4...Doug Wantley.....four ticto barbs.

TABLE SHOWS.

BREEDERS EGGLAYERS

- 1...B. Dunn.....Blue gularis.
- 2...D. Cheswright.....neons.
- 3...A.J .Mason.....*Aphyosemion vexilifer*.
- 4...P.F. Capon.....Checker Barbs

BREEDERS LIVEBEARERS,

1. .DCheswright. *Limia ornata*
- 2.,.B.Dunn.....Red platy.
- 3...R. Passmore.....Guppy

BEST FISH OF THE YEAR,

- 1...R. Wallings.....Guppy
- 2...A J.Mason.....*australe*
3. .D.Edwards.....Combtail
- 4...M.J. Willis..... *Copeina guttata*

Meeting December 5

This evening we had a show; of members holiday slides The raffle of a bottle of Vat 69 was won by Cyril Johnson.

Meeting 19 December.

The Social was held of the Bell Hotel, it was not very well attended by members only nine turning up - in fact there were more guests than members.

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS.

Meeting at 36, Grafton Road Canvey Island, 30 November.

Present; President, Treasurer, Secretary, Bob Passmore, Bob Wallings, Don Finch, Steve Norris, Peter Capon, and Tom King, apologies from John Mason. Arrangements were made for the next two meetings, Bob Wallings

to arrange the Social at the Bell Hotel,

Dave Edwards and Jack Redman agreed to attend special meeting at Thurrock as S.L.A. D..A.S.. representatives to finalise arrangements for the Inter-club meetings to be held in 1968.

The club program was arranged with details of one or two visiting lecturers to be obtained by the secretary.

The secretary reported that iReg Duboisson had very kindly offered to donate a cover for the JOURNAL . Michael said that he hoped that we could use this to the fullest advantage and have a block made that could be used for letter heads and prize cards.

Meeting 17 ..Arundel Gardens, Westcliff, December 28.

Present. President, Secretary, treasurer, Tom King, Peter Capon, Steve Norris, Bob Passmore, Bob Wallings, with apologies from John Mason and Don Finch.

The President opened the meeting by pointing out the need for us to enter the Inter-club table shows as a club and not as individuals. Since two of the classes in the first show at East London would have already been held at our own meetings this should give us an idea of the standard of our fish.

The question of the library fund was raised and it was agreed that should Steve Morris be able to suggest more titles that could be added to the library they be submitted to the club for a general choice.

It was decided that a new seating arrangement be tried at the January 2 meeting, as some members ad been unable to hear the chair at recent meetings.

CUPS WON FOR 1967

Southchurch Cup. highest points table shows.....D. Cheswright
Brookes Shield I. First Mini tank.....E. Thompson.
Brookes Shield II. Second Mini tank.....R Wallings
Giles Cup Third Mini tank.....R. Passmore.
Abbot Cup Second highest points table shows.....E. Thompson.
Barnes-Oake Cup Breeders egglayers..... B. Dunn
Coronation Cup Breeders live bearers.....D. Cheswright
Jones Cup Best Fish of Year.....R. Wallings
Duboisson Cup Best BL-.ck widow.,.....P. F. Capon
Julia Giles Cup meritorious breeding.....B. Dunn
Lcn Willis Cup best tooth carp.....A.J. Mason
Jones Cup Novice breeder.....R. Passmore
Saunders Cup Hard luck table show, contest February 16th

CLUB PROGRAMME

The programmes should be available at the same time as this Journal but just in case here are the next few meetings.

FEBRUARY 6 Talk on Pond Building; Hard Luck Table Show-- all members who have not won a first prize card in our own shows in 1967 may enter this show and enter any type of fish.

FEBRUARY 20. Barb slide show and talk.

MARCH 5 . Talk on "Live and Dried" foods, barb table show.

MARCH 19 , Film Evening and talk on Tooth Carps.

INTER-CLUB TABLE SHOWS.

MARCH 15 EAST LONDON: Barbs, platys & Fighters

MAY 14 BASILDON; Tooth-carps, male guppy, Danio Rasbora WCMM,

JULY 1 THURROCK. A.O.V, Catfish, swordtails

OCTOBER 1 SOUTHEND. A.O.V tropical, AOV. Coldwater, Characins, Mollies.

"TATTY" FIGHTERS

by Steve Norris

Pity the poor fish the Betta,

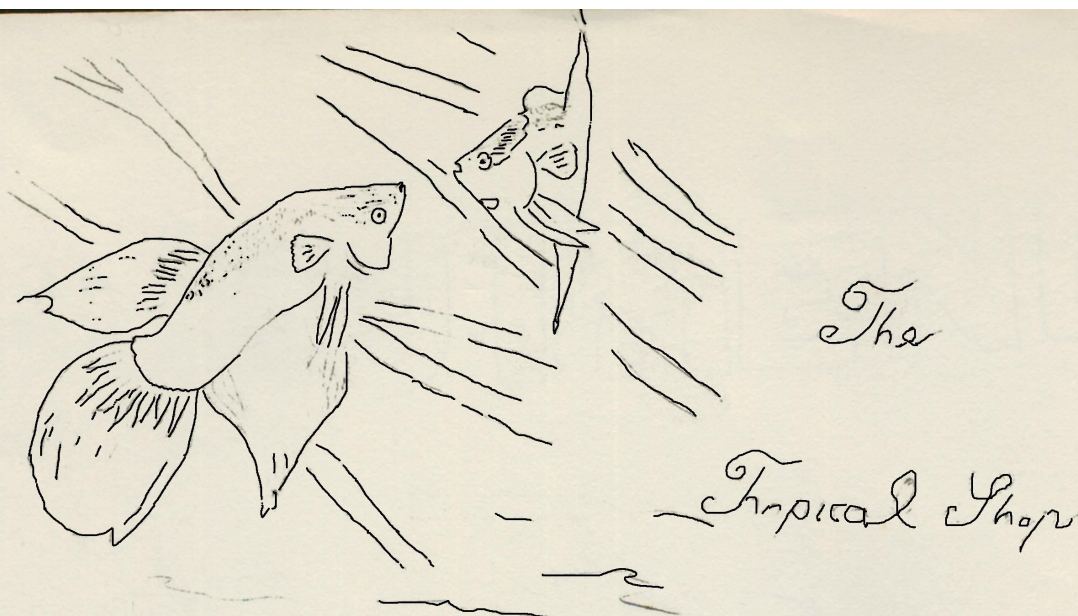
The bigger the Betta the better,

Till it's fins get all torn

And mine looks all forlorn,

But friend Capon's just couldn't be better.

**CRYSTAL CLEAR TANKS - MANY HUGE SPAWNINGS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL OUR READERS**



TROPICAL FISH - PLANTS - AQUARIA AND ALL EQUIPMENT

COLDWATER FISH - PONDS - FOUNTAINS - LILIES - ETC

MYNAHS - BUDGERIGARS - CANARIES - LARGE VARIETY

FOREIGN BIRDS - PARROTS - PARRAKEETS - HAMSTERS

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**BI-MONTHLY JOURNAL Number 19
M.ARCH 1968**

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S.L.A.D.A.S. IS AT LEAST THIRTY. THE JOURNAL WAS FOUNDED IN APRIL 1948,.
TWENTY YEARS AGO;

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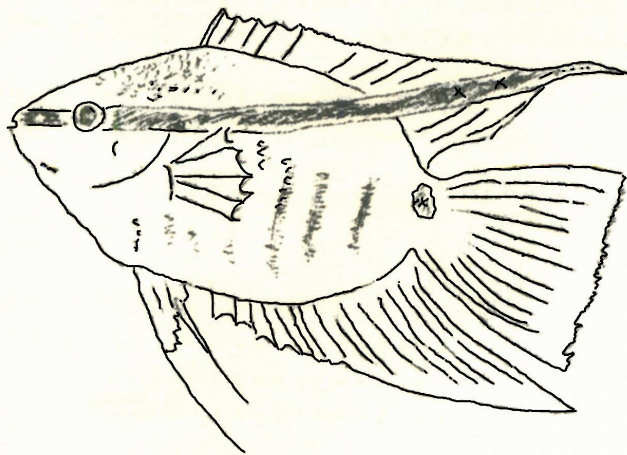
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EDITORIAL

This is the first of our bi-monthly editions (not also the last, I trust). We have have many requests for a monthly magazine but let's not try to walk before we can run. You know what I mean - it is obvious that this is the last page to be prepared.

It is interesting to note that whilst S.L.A.D.A.S. JOURNAL is changing from a Quaterly to ?a Bi-monthly "Fishy News" the magazine of Plymouth and District Aquarist's and Pondkeepers Society is changing from a monthly to a Quarterly.. NO ! Interest in fish is not waning in the West Country far from it. Plymouth intend to put out a one sheet Newsletter AND a Quarterly Magazine.

Good luck in your venture Mr Easterbrook I know just what extra work you are taking on..

BOARD A.ND LODGING

contributed by J.Redington.

An attractive young lady entered a local public house a few days before last Christmas and asked to speak to the licensee. She was overheard to enquire of him as to whether he had any accommodation up until Christmas morning. The publican replied that he had.

The regulars sensing a scandal ribbed the publican about his wife's attitude to having a young lady in the house.

The licensee silenced the bar when he revealed that the young lady wanted accommodation not for herself but for some TROPICAL FISH that she had bought for her father as a Christmas present.

CRUELTY TO GOLD FISH1

Students at Nuffield College have recently threatened to throw the Home Secretary, James Callaghan into the gold fish pond.

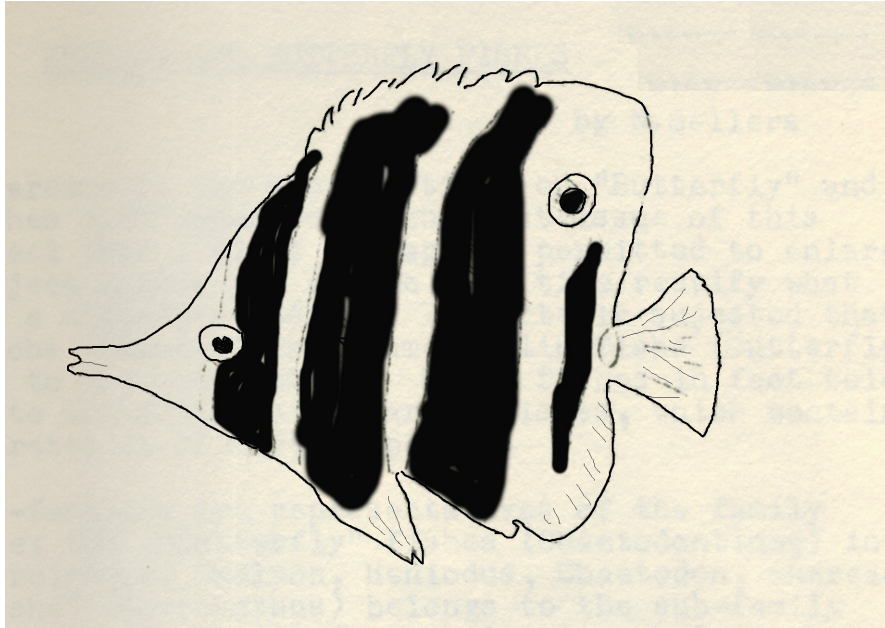
Should students be allowed to toss unwanted politicians in with the fish especially in March when they are only just getting over the long freeze.

S.L.A.D.A.S. IS AT LEAST THIRTY !!!

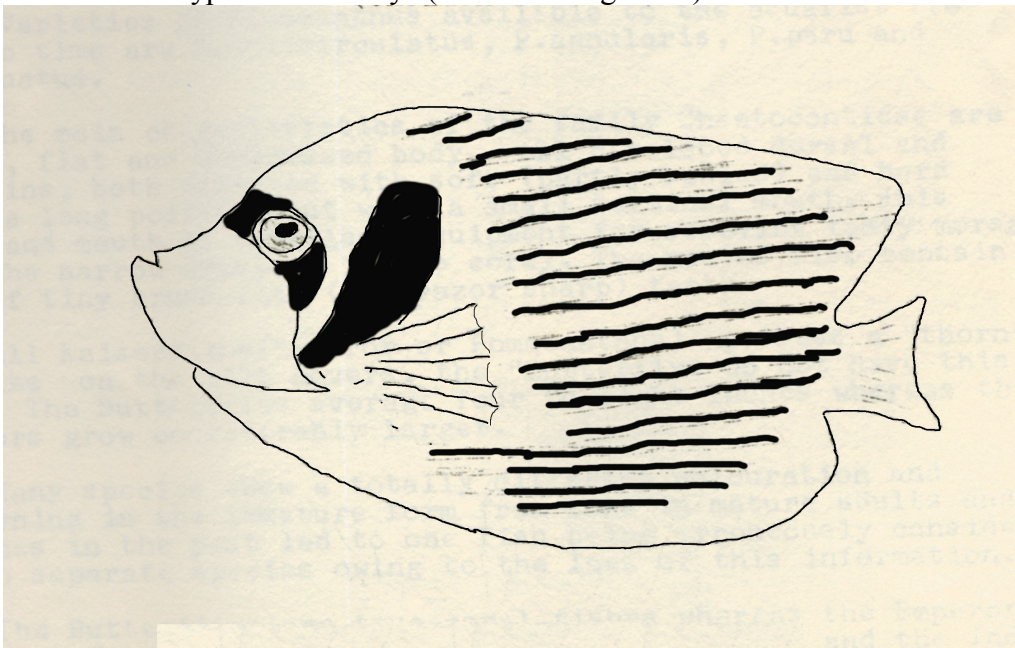
EMPEROR .AND BUTTERFLY FISHES.

by N. Sellers

Illustrations by the author.



typical "Butterfly" (Schmetterlingfische)



typical "Emperor" (Kaiserfische)
Pomacanthus imperator)

EMPEROR BUTTERFLY FISHES

by N. Sellers

With reference to the short article on "Butterfly" and "Emperor" fishes that appeared in the last issue of this JOURNAL. I feel that I might perhaps be permitted to enlarge upon it's subject matter and at the same time rectify what appears to be a misunderstanding. The article suggested that the Kaiserfische (Emperor) and Schmetterlingfische (Butterfly) fishes belong to the same family. These fishes in fact belong to two separate sub-families of marine fishes, which contain some of the prettiest of marine species.

Both sub-families are representatives of the family Chaetodontinae; the "Butterfly" fishes (Chaetodontinae) includes the genus' *Forcipiger*, *Chelmon*, *Heniodus*, *Chaetodon*, whereas the "Kaiserfische" (*Pomacanthus*) belongs to the sub-family Pomacanthinae which also includes *Angelichtys*, *Holacanthus*, and *Centropyge*.

Varieties of *Pomacanthus* available to the aquarist from time to time are *P.semicirculatus*, *P.annularis*, *P..paru* and *P. arcuatus*.

The main characteristics of the family Chaetodontidae are a high, flat and compressed body, well developed dorsal and anal fins, both equipped with soft (partly scaled) and hardrays, a long pointed snout with a small terminal mouth. This snout and mouth is excellent equipment for removing tasty morsels from the narrow crevices in the coral. The mouths also contain rows of tiny brush-like (but razor sharp) teeth.

All Kaiserfische (emperor or *Pomacanthus*) possess a "thorn" or spike on the gill covers, the butterflies do not have this spike. The Butterflies average four to eight inches whereas the Emperors grow considerably larger.

Many species show a totally different colouration and patterning in the immature form from that in mature adults and this has in the past led to one fish being erroneously considered as two separate species owing to the lack of this information.

The Butterflies are true coral fishes whereas the Emperors are often found in open waters both in the Red Sea and the Indo-Pacific Ocean, and often at depths of fifty feet or more.

The Emperors tend to have a much blunter snout and a bull-like forehead,

Members of both sub-families make their homes in the crevices of rocks and coral, and the adults usually lead a life-long paired existence much the same as the fresh water angel fish with which we are more familiar. The provision of hiding places should not be neglected when setting up an aquarium for these fishes.

The Emperors in particular are territorial fishes defending their homes against all intruders save for one and that is the comparatively small (-about four inches) "cleaner" fish (*Labroides dimidiatus*) which removes the parasites from the body including the gill plates of its host. Last year I watched this procedure fascinated at the "Wilhelma." Stuttgart..

Recently it has been found that the Emperor is able to emit a "ticking" sound when disturbed. This "ticking" is probably a further method of defense to ward off intruders.

Little is known regarding the sexing and breeding habits of these fishes.

If one is contemplating keeping Emperors their large size must be taken into consideration and the ideal would be one pair of adult fish with, of course, their "valets" (cleaner fish) in attendance to a two hundred gallon tank -(fish-house size ?)

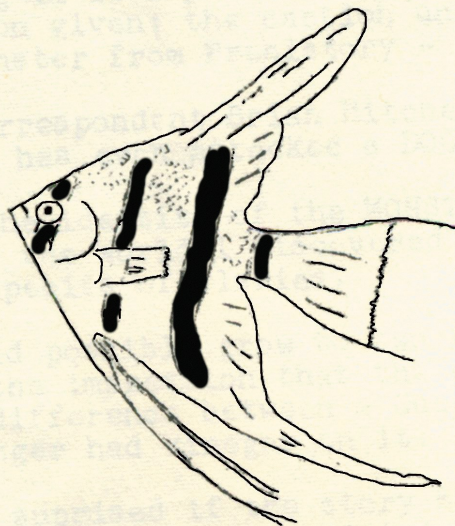
Butterfly fishes are quick and agile swimmers and they also require a large aquarium, adequate hiding places being provided for the less militant or "resting" members of the community for although outwardly appearing peaceful they have a tendency to nip their colleagues or use their retractable dorsal spines as weapons to inflict grievous bodily harm.

They look upon anemones with relish and will rapidly devour any placed in the tank for decoration, anemones are however a useful source of food - if available and cheap enough.

Having small mouths both Butterflies and Emperors should be fed on small food or food cut to size, e.g. brine shrimp, cyclops, mysis, small fish, tubifex, mussel meat, shrimp meat, dry food, and most important (particularly for Emperors) green lettuce, and tender water plants.

EDITOR'S NOTE Mr Roberts apparently fell into the common trap of calling any group of fishes a "family", the commonest example of this is to refer to the Barb family, there is no Barb family, the family is the Cyprinidae or Carp-like fishes.

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EXCHANGE REVIEWS

by Steve Norris.

THE IHFORMER (Greenwater ..A/S) Oct '67

In an article on spawning an author tells us luck doesn't come into it really, apparently he worked over six years with discus before he was successful in breeding them.

This club can also boast a very industrious lady member who built her own all-glass tank - and it didn't leak'. Yet another article by a lady "My Spawn of Golden Eye Cichlids" also seems interacting to me.

The American Societies appear to have many more female members exhibiting fish (and winning !) in their shows than we seem to have. Why can't "we do the same over here? Give the wife a few fish of her own and see what she can do.

Still with the **Informer** a fellow aquarist who had trouble feeding frozen brine shrimp (don't we all) comes up with a solution so simple that I am surprised that I didn't think of it myself.

In the November issue, there is a follow up to the Golden Eye: Cichlid story - on feeding the fry, and Barb Evans tells us to beware of one sided feeding which can effect the liver of a fish.

AQUA. JEWELS Sept ' 67

Not knowing anything about Neons I did not know there was such a thing as Neon Tetra disease caused by the parasite *Phistophera hyphessobryconis*. This reprint from the **SCALARE** by Jim Matney will be helpful to anyone who as lost neons and not known the cause.

Doris Vilda does a good job in compiling an article from excerpts of previous **Aqua Jewels** with regard to aquarium foods, this should be very helpful to the beginner and may give the old hands a few fresh ideas as well.,

AQUA NEWS November '67

This magazine features a fish of the month, and in this issue they have what they term a joint fish of the month, namely the guppy and the Betta.. Lots to interest the .G and B. fanciers. There is a lot more on fighters in the December issue.

NEWPORT .A/S Monthly Bulletin December '67

This magazine has three good articles, one on Penguin fish, one on Marines, and one on the Amazon Sword plant; all three make very good reading.

The AQUARIST

The **Aquarist** is a magazine that I make sure of reading every month. I particularly like the experts answers to tropical fishkeeping queries.

INTERNATIONAL MARINE STUDY SOCIETY MAGAZINE

A new journal to me, anybody interested in marines will find this of value,

F.T.F.I. TRADER

This magazine published by the Florida Tropical Fish Industries is meant for our friends in the trade but we can pick up some helpful hints from the October issue in an article by Henry R. Moreno, "Some General Considerations in Treating Diseased Fish" The author reckons that if all else fails to cure one should try a couple of ALKA -SELTZER.

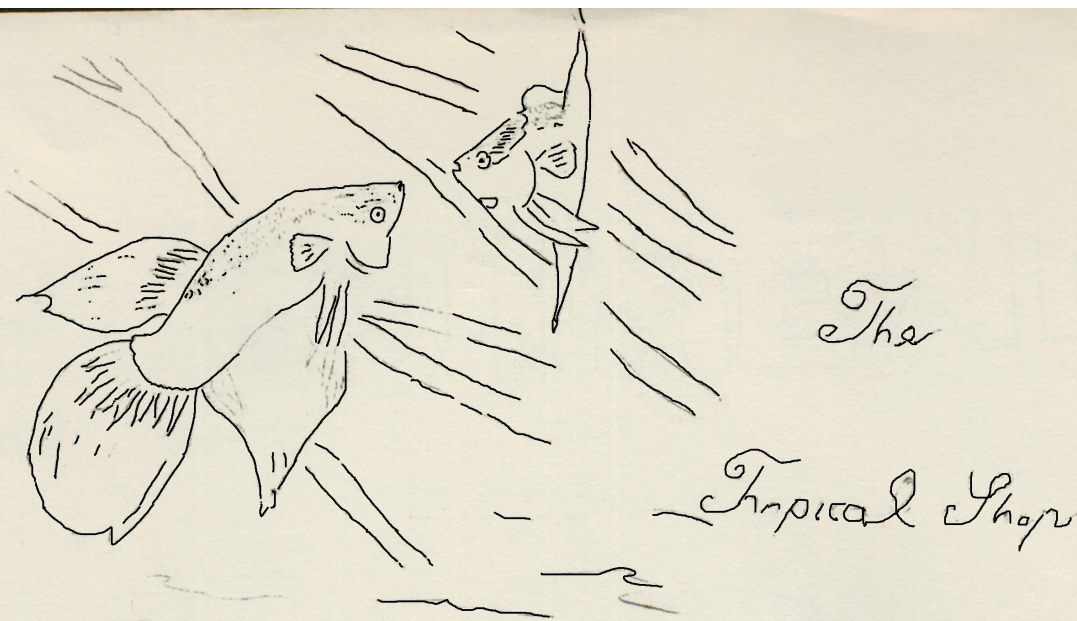
(Editors Warning — Read the article before you try this remedy ——don't say we. didn't warn you !!!)

Thumbing through the reviews over these past few months I have come to the conclusion that the *Betta* is the most written about fish of the lot. It seems that almost every magazine that I pick up has some reference to them, but as they say, the more you learn the less you know. anyone really keen on this fish should read up the November issue of the **Colorado .Aquarist**

Even more about "tatty" fighters (sounds like something from diddy Ken Dodd) in the February **PetFish Monthly** and in **The Splash** (Milwaukee A/S) January ' 68, an article by a junior on artificially hatching and rearing *Bettas* to free-swimming stage.

Don't forget all you fish-fiends we have a few magazines devoted entirely to marine fish for those with the interest - and the money - to go in for this branch of our hobby.

The books and magazines in the library are for your use -please use them.



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NEW LIGHT ON NITRITE POISONING

by P.F.Capon.

In the early post-war days of our hobby much was written on what was called, "Autumn Disease". It was noticed that more fishes tended to die in the autumn than at any other time of the year. The cause of this loss could be traced to the diminution of light and the dying back of plants.

As the plants failed so the conditions in particularly natural lighted tanks became fouler. In a well maintained aquarium waste matter is broken down to soluble materials which plants can assimilate. One of the products of putrefaction under conditions of reasonable oxygen content and light is nitrates. But in dark tanks containing an oxygen content that is too low nitrites are formed.

These nitrites are toxic to fish life as they are able to combine with the red pigment (haemoglobin) in the blood to form a stable compound known as methhaemoglobin. The haemoglobin in the blood carries the oxygen to the various parts of the body but when it is combined with nitrite no oxygen transport can occur and the fish literally suffocates.

Under condition of low oxygen content bacteria flourish that take nitrates and convert them into nitrites. It has been shown recently that human babies fed on tinned baby foods containing excessive nitrate concentrations (derived from fertilizers used on root crops) can suffer from the production of methhaemoglobin in their blood. Nitrates in reasonable quantities are not toxic to humans but babies have for the first few weeks of life intestinal bacteria that are able to convert nitrates into nitrites. Nitrates ingested by young children in excessive quantities can be converted via nitrites into methhaemoglobin with often fatal results. The cure for human babies is an injection of saline methylene blue. This dye takes the place of the useless haemoglobin until the infant can manufacture more; the methylene blue behaves in a similar manner to the haemoglobin and transports oxygen around the body.

This oxygen property is one of the reasons that I favour the dye as a general purpose medicant. Even if it is unable to cure the disease at least it is not toxic in itself (many other drugs are very toxic and doses have to be measured with great care). Methylene blue does, at least, increase the oxygen content of the fishes blood and in this way give the patient more chances of combating the disease.

Methylene blue is used as a specific for white spot and velvet amongst many other diseases.

Marine fishes often succumb to the toxic effects of either nitrates or nitrites. Presumably marine species have a natural flora and fauna (bacteria etc) in their gut which are able to convert nitrates into nitrites. The fish would then suffer when their haemoglobin is converted into methaemoglobin. In the normal marine tank with no plants to absorb nitrates the concentration will soon rise and the fish die from the results of production of nitrite in their intestines.

Fish deaths due to nitrite poisoning would appear to be quite common as many fish both freshwater and marine die from no apparent internal or external reason but with their mouths open surely a sign of asphyxiation and possibly nitrite poisoning

CLUB NEWS

Meeting January 2.

The main attraction of the evening was an auction, also on the programme -was a table show for:-

LIVEBEARERS

- 1....R. Passmore.....Delta guppy.....89 points
- 2.. .R. WallingsGreen sword.....86 points
- 3....R. Wallings.....Red Wagtail.....8? points
- 4....R..Passmore.....Black. Sword.,.....84 points

Your editor was pressed into judging the show and. Much as I dislike guppies I couldn't help placing that guppy first.

Meeting January. 16

The highlight of this meeting was a table show of Rasbora, Danios, and White Clouds, judged by Ed Niccol from Thurrock Club.

DANIOS, RASBORA, WHITE CLOUDS.

- 1....M.J. Willis,.....Zebra.
- 2....S. Norris.....Zebra.
3. . D. Cheswright... .White Cloud
- 4.. .R. Wallings.White Cloud.

Whilst Ed was judging -we had a short talk on Rasboras , and White Clouds. And Danios We were of ;Ed as he has recently qualified a F.B.A.S. judge

Meeting March 5

Live and Fried foods was the title of the talk for this meeting. Michael Willis talked on live foods and Dave Cheswright on dry food. Dave stated that he does not like freeze dried tubifex, (Ugh !) —why not give it to the fish Dave?

The raffles of selections of live or dried foods was won by the following .-

Cyril Johnson.
Tom King.
Bob Orford.
John Cooper.

The table show for Barbs was judged by Stan Halsey.

BARBS

1...D. Edwards.....*Aurilius*.
2...P.F. Capon.....checker
3. .P..F. Capon. ...checker.
4..R. Passmore.....stolicza.

This table show was well supported with 31 entries, Dave Edwards Orphodes barb although it did not gain a place did interrupt the talks repeatedly by attempting to jump out of it's tank--- maybe it was expressing it's opinions of the foods being discussed.

TABLE SHOW POSITIONS

Each member gaining a first place is awarded four points, and. each member gaining a second place is awarded three points and so on..

This year for the first time any S.L.A.D.A.S. Member getting a place in an Inter-club show (not open shows) will get points on the same scale as above added to his total

R.Passmore.....11. points.
R Wallings.... ..6 points
P F. Capon,.....5 points
D. Edwards4 points
Mrs J. Norris... 4 points
M .J. Willis4 points
S..S. Norris».... 3 points
T.King..... ..1 points

Committee meeting February 1

The meeting was held at 2, Cedar Avenue, Wickford;

present were President, Treasurer, Secretary, Bob Passmore, Bob Wallings, Steve Norris, John Mason, Don Finch, Peter Capon, and Tom King.

Points discussed were the purchase of some hundred tanks for resale to club members, Bob Wallings and Steve Norris raised this matter. The subject of a visiting lecturer for the Inter-club show was discussed. arrangements were made for the next two meetings, the transport situation for the Inter-club meeting at East London, was discussed fully.

The new club badges were discussed and ordered.

INTER-CLUB TABLE SHOWS

MAY 14 BASILDON .

TOOTH-C/ARPS , MALE GUPPY, DANIO- RASBORA-. W.C.MINNOW, CICHLID.

JULY 1 THURROCK

A.O.V. ,LABYRINTH,CATFISH, SWORDTAILS.

OCTOBER 1 SOUTHEND.

A.O.V, TROPICAL, A.O.V. COLDWATER, CHARACINS, MOLLIES.

PROGRAMME FOR S.L.A.D.A.S.

April 2 : Quiz, Characin talk, Tooth-carp table show.

APRIL 16; Visiting speaker and table show for characins

MAY 7; Talk on furnished tanks, and Mini-tank table show.

MAY 21 Talk on Diseases and pests, Pairs and Crazy Table show.

STOP PRESS : INTER-CLUB SHOW AT EAST LONDON

EAST LONDON 9 POINTS.. THURROCK 7 POINTS
BASILDON 0 POINTS SOUTHEND 14 POINTS

Keep up the good work S.L.A.D.A.S.

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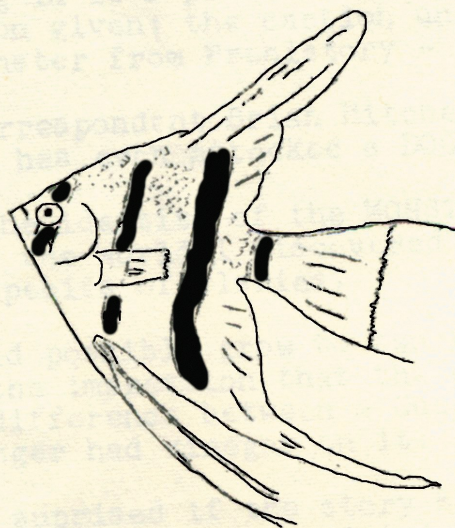
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EDITORIAL

This issue is in the nature of an anniversary JOURNAL. Being the nearest issue to our twentieth birthday I have included a number of contributions from the early days of our magazine. Included is of course an item from the very first issue !

Our JOURNAL was first published in April 1948 so that with this issue we are twenty years and one month old – let's hope the JOURNAL can last another twenty years,

There is of course a secondary reason for such a high proportion of reprints only one repeat ONE member has given me any copy for this JOURNAL - Steve Norris - thanks Steve !

What a fine start to our BI-MONTHLY editions !

A New Torrey Canyon for Southend ??

The Port of London's magazine for April discusses the possibility of a "Torrey Canyon" type of disaster on the River Thames, because of the soft mud there is little likelihood of a tankerrunning aground and being broken open on rocks, but there is a distinct possibility of a collision between two "super-tankers" in the river or estuary. These modern tankers carry up to 94,000 tons of crude oil. Imagine the effect of two of these smashing into one another and releasing their cargo. Within hours of such an impact the tide would spread the oil all over the banks in a stretch of at least twenty miles !

Old father Thames is slowly being cleaned up and the fish etc are slowly returning (see this Journal Jan. 1967). If detergent were to be used to clear this oil at anything like the rate it was used off the West Country it would be a biological disaster !

1½ million gallons of chemical emulsifier is estimated to have been used to disperse the Torrey Canyon oil, just a small fraction of this amount used in the Thames would be sufficient to turn the whole river black and kill every fish from Richmond to SOUTHEND not to mention the other forms of life.

WHERE'S OUR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT ?

Questions have been asked as to why we have had no reports lately from S.L.A.D.A.S.'s foreign correspondent ? He or was it she has not been heard of for some time rumour has it that he was last heard of trying to sell Mao some BLUE gouramis !!

EXCHANGE REVIEWS

by Steve Norris.

With East London (and victory) still in our minds, there is an amusing, but to my mind truthful piece in their bulletin for February entitled "Fish Houses and Fish House Types". The writer divides all fish house owners into three categories. I won't tell you which one I'll most probably end up in !

Still with East London, remember the talk on marines and the question on breeding them - well it is reported in the March edition of the **SPLASH** (Millwaukee A/S) that an American aquarist has a spawning of the salt water Neon Goby.

Friend Capon has just come across the May 1967 issue of **Marine Study Journal**, what have you been doing Peter? If anyone is still interested in the Torrey Canyon story and the effect upon the fishes in the area, they have a special supplement in this issue with diagrams and lots of scientific stuff for all you would be boffins.

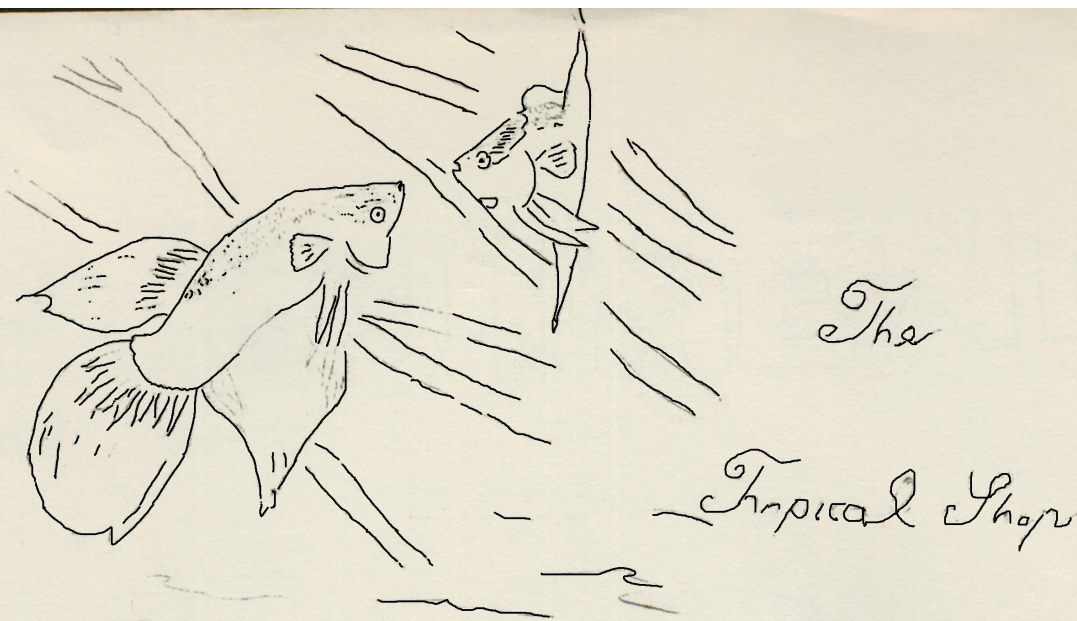
The **Fish Culturist** that handy and informative leaflet focuses it's attention for February on breeding *Barbus tetrazona* (Tiger Barb). I can't really see how anyone reading these articles can really go wrong, but I often seem to ; (like losing all the fry from some ones else's Paradise fish and then the parents dying on me -sorry Bob).

Beware if anyone tries to "flog" you a pair of Discus fish on the cheap, they could be stolen.. Shirley aquatics of Solihull has recently been burgled the "swag" consists of numerous items of aquatic equipment including ozonizers, heaters, etc., fish foods and remrdies, books, a three foot aquarium cabinet and stand, three pairs of Discus and about twenty Malawi cichlids which are bright blue in colour. Anyone who can give assistance in this matter is asked to contact the police or;-

Mr C.Roe,
Shirley Aquatics,
Stratford Road,
Monkspath,
Shirley,
Solihull,
Warwickshire

The theft was mentioned in the **Aquarist** for March '68.

Also in the same issue is an article on pond building. If any members who attended the meeting when our President and Secretary gave us a talk on pond building are interested in having a go they will be heartened by Andrew Williams' detailed



TROPICAL FISH - PLANTS - AQUARIA AND ALL EQUIPMENT

COLDWATER FISH - PONDS - FOUNTAINS - LILIES - ETC

MYNAHS - BUDGERIGARS - CANARIES - LARGE VARIETY

FOREIGN BIRDS - PARROTS - PARRAKEETS - HAMSTERS

TERRAPINS - GRASS SNAKES

PARROT CAGES - BREEDING CAGES - STANDS

ALL AT :-

THE TROPICAL SHOP,
534, LONDON ROAD,
WEST CLIFF-ON-SEA.

TELEPHONE SOUTHEND

45554

description of how he set about it. after being prodded into action by that eternal taskmaster -the wife - he commenced Operation Garden Pond at 11.30 a.m. Saturday and finished 4 p.m. Sunday, (without working with flood-lights throughout the night) he did , however, have all the necessary equipment to hand; pumps etc., and from the photo' accompanying the article I should say he can feel justifiably proud of the result.

SMILE AWHILE

by C.B.

Reprinted S.L.A,D.A.S JOURNAL first issue April 1946

The Southend and Leigh Aquarists
Have a "Bulletin" at last,
And though we've got it published
It's not yet in full blast.

So I'm asking every member
To do his level best
And bring to our next meeting
Another friend as guest.

So thus increase our members
And our financial state,
Then at our monthly meetings
Better fare upon the plate

So members, all, do please be keen. !
Let's work and have some fun !
When we've a thousand members
We'll relax and say 'Well done' !

Then Mr Day will be quite gay
And Mr Giles all smiles
While we shall reap the harvest from
The seeds of many trials

SPECIAL ARTICLE ON BREEDING GUPPIES

by Anon, reprint S.L.A.D.A.S. august 1950

Take any glass, china or metal container, and fill it with water from pond, stream, or tap. Obtain one male and female guppy and place them in the container.

(The only essential appears to be water 1.1 -H.A. Giles, editor)

THE SAD STORY OF A SMALL SPAWNING OF NIGGER BARBS

by M.C. Mash.-
reprint S.L.A.D.A.S. February 1951

Ten little nigger barbs thought they would rise and shine,
One rose above the brim and then there were nine,

Nine greedy nigger barbs fed at such a rate
Another baby choked itself and then there were eight.

Eight unwary niggers saw an angel sent from heaven
Who sorted out the plumpest one and then there were seven,

; Seven frisky nigger barbs showing off their tricks,
A silly argued with a rock and so we are left with six.

Six saucy niggers - very much alive,
Until one died of noseyness , then there were five.

Five of "what I told you" fattened more and more,
One "tawt he taw a pudey tat" and then there were four.

Four forlorn niggers, had dried shrimp for tea,
A piece got stuck in. "Curly's"- throat, which left us only three-

Three shivering niggers didn't have a clue,
Who wiped one to eternity -leaving just the two.

Two remaining niggers could hardly have much fun,
The male committed suicide and so there was but one.

One lone nigger barb didn't find a mate,
So she, becoming egg-bound, Nemesis fixed a date.

TWENTY FISHY YEARS

by P.F. Capon.

This issue of our magazine is the closest one to our 20th birthday. The JOURNAL was first published in April 1948. The first editor was Edgar Day. Next came C.J. Saunders in April 1949, followed by M. Barnes-Oake in January 1951 - Then we had in June 1951 Peter Blomfield who handed over to G. Willis on January 1953 The; last copy I have seen. in the first series is that for October 1953. But I understand that George Hedger took over the chair for some time- The magazine then died only to be revived by Howard Preston on or about- October 1963.

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT (X CERTIFICATE)

reprinted.:S.L.A.D.A,S, JOURNAL. Oct 1953

by M.C. Mash

He was introduced to her in the fall and he fell for her immediately. The temperature was inductive to frivolity and she coerced him to the limit. Her" wasp-like waist looked very seductive; her shape was comely and her eyes glinted and swiveled in a most compelling manner. She annoyingly hid and revealed herself alternately behind the plantations. and he could not restrain himself from emitting a wolf whistle.

Stealthily approaching her from a direction which was advantageous to his design he made a bid to cut off her retreat, but she was too quick. for him and coquettishly darted with dainty movements from plant to plant.. This preliminary courtship was mutual and lasted for several hours. Eventually tiring of frustrating manoeuvres she at last pretended to submit, only to repeatedly escape by a hair's breadth at the crucial moment. But he was adamant and gradually edged her to a corner from; which escape was next to impossible.

Desire had quickened his pulse and he had guiltily coloured to a vivid red around the neck-band. Realizing that he was getting desperate. she pretended to be overwhelmed, only to make a desparing struggle at the first embrace,.. Then at last she limply allowed him to pursue his amorous designs, for she was very young and very inexperienced.

After a few prenuptial embraceshe got seriously to work. Wrapping his body around hers in a crescentic arc he made love in the old fashioned way and she ecstatically responded. 'This was not his first love affair andhe handled her with delicate tact that occasioned in her a delightful understanding of passion, and she was as clay is to the potter..

He promised her a large family and by heck she believed him.

A few hours later he gently but firmly escorted her to the home he had with great foresight provided -it was artistically perfect and structurally jerry-built being composed entirely of bubbles — for he you see gentle reader, our hero and hard roe were merely a couple of *Macropodus opercularis*

Copy and film rights to shoot the author and vested in S.L.A.D.A.S. May be had for the asking

INTER-.CLUB TABLE SHOWS

July 1 THURROCK

TOOTH-CARPS, MALE GUPPY, DANIO RASBORA. W.C.MINNOW,CICHLID.

OCTOBER 1 SOUTHEND

A.O.V. TROPICAL, A.O.V. COLDWATER, CHARACINS. MOLLIES.

PROGRAMME FOR S.L.A.D.A..S.

MAY 21 i Talk on diseases and. pests. Pairs table show. Crazy Table show;.

June 4; Slide show Quiz. ..A.O.V. Table show.

June 18 Talk on Labyrinths. Hand out of fry for fry raising competition (the fry are to be brought back on October 15.

JULY 2 Coldwater fish talk. Labyrinth table show. Coldwater table show,

JULY 16; auction. Talk on Cichlids.

(For further details see your programme card)

HOME AQUARIA- COMPETITION

This year we are holding our home aquaria competition again after a lapse of several years all members are eligible. to take part. Please ask about how YOU can take part.

SPECIALLY FOR NEW MEMBERS

Perhaps many of the newer members would like to put questions at our meetings but are nervous of doing so.

Here is a possible solution to your problem – simply write your question or problem on paper and post it to the editor and we will try and answer it in the JOURNAL.

TABLE SHOW POSITIONS

R.Passmore....12 points	S. Norris.,...,.....7 points
P. F. Capon..... 7 points	D. Cheswright., ..6 points
R.Wallings ... , 6 points	A.J -Mason...6 points
D-Edwards ... 7 points	L. Mitchell...4 points
B DLunn..... 4 points	J .Morris4 points
T.King.....1 point.	

A n error unfortunately crept into our last issue, the winner of the Danio, .Rasbora, white cloud table show on the 16 th of January wasLawrence Mitchell not Michael Willis as stated, sorry gents.

(Always did wonder whether that Editor fellow could read that horrible scrawl that he calls writing?)

Points are now awarded to S.L.A.D.A.S. members who gain places in the Inter-club table shows- all the more reason to support the Inter-club shows

The Crazy table show billed for May the 21 st will not carry points for theHighest points of the year trophy- this table show is meant as just a bit of fun. The other show on that night the Pairs show will, however, count in the normal manner.

FOR THE KEWRIOUS

The outing to Kew Gardens has been arranged for the 9 th of June. The visit to Kew should be quite good as it embraces the: minimum of fishy business which should please a number of spouses.

IT IS RUMOURED THAT.....

Reprinted from an early S.L.A.D.A.S Journal

Angel fish are perfect devils aan Devil fish are perfect angels to spawn.

The song hit in next years pantomime will be "Rudolf the red nosed Tetra"

A certain aquarists wife is still not convinced, that references by her husband to a certain Mollie really were the result of a dream about his favourite livebearer!

CLUB NEWS

INTER-CLUB MEETING AT EAST LONDON March 15

BARBS

- 1...Mr Greennigger.....East London.
- 2...Mr Edwardschola.....Southend.
- 3..Mr Capon.....checker.....Southend.
- 4.Mr Long.....cherry.....East London.

PLATYS

- 1...S.Norris.....red.....Southend.
- 2...Mr Dodkins.....yellow wag.....East London.
- 3...Mr Juson.....black.....Thurrock
- 4...Mr Cheswright.....black.....Southend.

FIGHTERS

- 1...Mr Dunn.....red.....Southend.
- 2...Mr Durrant.....red.....Thurrock.
- 3.. Mr Durrant.....red.....Thurrock.
- 4...Mr Ayres.....multi-colour.....East London.

The final points for this show were :-

SOUTHEND 14. EAST LONDON 9 THURROCK 7 BASILDON 0

Perhaps this is a suitable point to offer Basildon our condolences and wish them- luck on May 14 when they are at home to the other clubs.

During the evening we were entertained to a talk on Marines by Mr Dryden of Aqua-Imports of Ilford.

He mentioned that the mean Specific Gravity for the salt water should, be 1.025. Treatment of the water with Ultra-violet light or ozone is a must he maintained, and a power filter such as an Eheim is also essential. He also claimed that the only suitable tank for saltwater fishes is a "John Alan" tank..

On being informed from the floor that the reason that more aquarists did not "go marine" was the exorbitant prices he countered that whereas a prize guppy could cost up to £2 , a clown only cost £1 to 30/-- Some enthusiasts would

readily pay £8 for a Discus but they jib at paying £6 :for a thing of real beauty.

Mr Dryden said that London was backward as far as marines went the Liverpool area was far ahead.

When questioned on the price of a marine set up Mr Dryden stated it would be about £30 or so this brought comments from the floor pointing out that it was this exorbitant price that was the reason for the lack of popularity of marines,

After the break for FOOD - you did us proud E.L.A.P.A.S. - Mr Creed who judged the show gave us his comments on the fishes. He said that when he was confronted with all those fishes it was quite a shock. There were 51 fishes in the barb class alone. There were a number of young fishes in this class and also a number with torn fins - no doubt caused by that last minute chase with the net on arriving home from work with too little time to get to the show.

The fighters class contained a lot of young fish and several with rather long tails (1 can take a hint - editor)

All the fighters showed off well, Mr Creed did not need the dental mirror that he usually carries to get them to show off.

The platy class was a mixed bag but quite nice,

Mr Creed commented on Mr Drydens talk and stated that he had kept marines before the war without any ozone, ultra- violet light, or power filters etc.

Meeting March 19

This evening we had a film show. The first was entitled "Demons of the Deep", during a shot of sharks a member was heard to remark on the similarity to some. Dealers.

The second film was of Jacques Yves Cousteau entitled "Under-water City" the highlight of this film for me at least, was a shot of scallops swimming looking for all the world like animated "false teeth".

The third film was obviously an amateur production the presenter and his cups were in better focus than the fish. Much was lost in the camera trying to chase the fish up and down the tank and in and out of focus. Besides unidentifiable fishes completely out of focus the film had been badly

scratched in the camera.

The raffle again consisted of three prizes.

- 1...Bob Passmore *Aphyosemion*
- 2...Mr Medhurst,..... Goldfishes.
- 3...Cyril Johnson.... Goldfishes.

The evening was rounded off with a discussion on Tooth-carps between Brian Dunn, Dave Edwards, Dave Cheswright and Michael Willis.

Meeting; April 2

The major event of the evening was a quiz – well perhaps not the major event but just the longest . Team number one under Dave Edwards won with 13¾ points; Team number two under Michael Willis came second with 13½ points and team number three under Dave Ches` came third with 13 points, Don`t ask me how I came to award these points I don`t know any more than you do.

Yet again we had three raffle prizes !

- 1.. B. Dunn.....pair Metynnis
- 2... Ray B loxhampair Keyhole cichlids
3. .Tony Bobin.....glowlights .

We also had a table show for;-

TOOTH CARPS

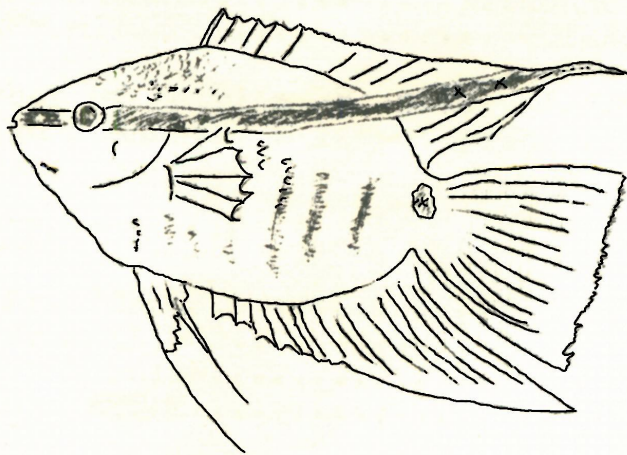
- 1..A.J. Mason.....*australe*.
- 2.. D. Cheswright.....*caliurum*.
- 3..A.J.Mason.....*australe*.
- 4..R.Passmore.....*Rivulus milesi*.

The show was judged by Ed. Niccol from Thurrock, in his summing up he included an advertisement for the open show at Thurrock. several of our members have entered the show this is a good excuse for S.L.A.D.A.S. members to pay the show a visit - seriously it should be well worth a trip the quality of exhibit expected should be high.

STOP PRESS INTER CLUB SHOW AT BASILCON ON MAY 14.

BASILDON	POINTS.	EAST LONDON..	POINTS
SOUTHEND	POINTS.	THURROCK	POINTS

pet shop



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(founded 1938, or before)

The Society meets every first and third Tuesday in each month at 8.00 pm, at.-

**ST ANDREWS HALL
ELECTRIC AVENUE
WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA
ESSEX.**

(entrance in Westborough Road)

**BI-MONTHLY JOURNAL Number 21
JULY 1968**

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S.L.A.D.A.S. IS THIRTY, THE JOURNAL IS TWENTY.

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

D. Finch R. Wallings,

Steve Norris also acts as member with special responsibility for looking after new members

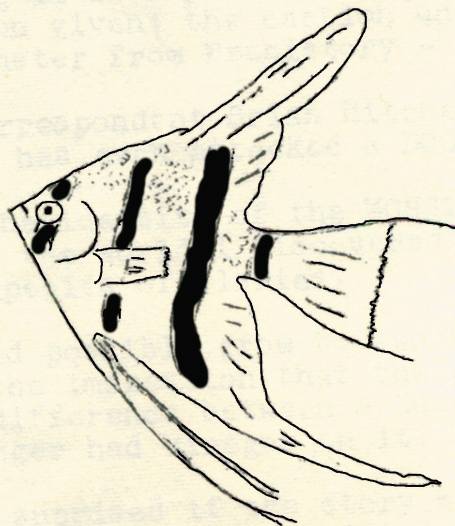
NOTICES

EDITORS OF CLUB MAGAZINES; PERISSION IS GIVEN TO REPRINT
S.L.A.D.AS. ARTICLES. A COPY OF THE MAGAZINE FOR THE AUTHOUR
WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

EXCHANGE MAGAZINES TO BE SENT TO THE EDITOR.

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■■■■■■■■■■

EDITORIAL

A number of people both club members and persons not interested in our hobby have pointed out to me a report in the Sunday Mirror for June 30. This report is headlined – "Swampland Terror of Walking Catfish".

The headline and the article give the impression of a monster stalking the Everglades and other watery areas of Florida destroying everything in its path. Something out of a horror film is the impression given; the caption under the photograph states "Like Some Monster from Prehistory - a Walking Catfish".

The Mirror's correspondent Brian Hitchen even goes so far as to claim that one has even attacked a DOG!

Upon checking the identity of the MONSTER with Sterba's Freshwater Fishes of the World I discovered that the horror was no more than a species of *Clarias*.

These fish could possibly grow to two feet but attack a dog -NEVER! I get the impression that the writer of the article could not tell the difference between a Guppy and a Fish-finger

I would not be surprised if the story has its origins in an anti-fish lobby that appears to exist in the States. An example of this lobby is the attempts to ban ALL CHARACID fishes in certain States except under license. One license per fish. The idea is to ban the keeping of Piranhas lest they are released into natural waters - a laudable idea. But the legislators intend to ban all the characins - neons, cardinals, the lot !

Perhaps I should make my position clear - I am against introducing any fish into any water where it does not naturally live. New introductions can often kill off other species by upsetting the balance. I am also against such articles as that in the Mirror which only tend to bring our Hobby into disrepute,

Amongst our exchange Magazines is the "**Trader**" of the Florida Tropical Fish Industries perhaps the editor Tina Mann can give us more information on this "Monster" that would appear to have escaped from a fish farm,

RENT-AN-OCTOPUS

contributed by J. Redington

Davenport's Aquarium in South London is offering to rent anything from a goldfish to a crocodile. The service is for the benefit of doctors etc who want aquaria in their surgery, complete set-ups are available from 8/- per week.

BIRTH OF A POND

by R. Wallings

When one travels across country one does not travel very far before one comes across a natural hollow in the ground.

It is interesting to note what happens to this hollow when there is a heavy shower. If the ground is formed of hard solid rock such as granite the rain wets the surface and then runs off in all directions. Some finds it's way to the nearest stream and thence into a river and some finds it's way into the hollows in the rock where it collects as pools which are slowly dried by the sun.

If the soil is porous like chalk the water sinks into the ground and may not even wet the surface of the thirsty soil. Soils and rocks which allow water to soak through them are called permeable and those which do not allow water to pass through are termed impermeable.

If our natural hollow is in a soil of a clay type and there is no outlet for the water a pond will form.

At first there will be no life in the water. The land plants that grew in the hollow will have been destroyed by being submerged. The dead and dying vegetation will support a host of bacterial life which will increase in numbers and colour the water and cause it to emit a foul smell. Eventually the bacteria will convert all the plant matter into nitrogenous material (plant food) and with nothing further to feed on will die of starvation. The water loses it's smell and regains it's original clarity.

In the meantime algae spores, which are air-borne reach the pond. Birds and amphibia carry seeds of higher plants together with fish eggs and the occasional fish dropped by fish eating birds. Insects deposit their eggs in the pond as do frogs, newts, and toads,

With the passing of time wild flowers, trees and shrubs establish themselves on the banks.

In this complete pool all the inhabitants live in a state of interdependence, feeding upon and competing with one another for food so that no species increases beyond it's proper proportion. The temperature range, mineral content of the water and the type of soil determines which plants and animals shall flourish.

In the well balanced pond nothing is wasted, the dead leaves, fishes, and snails etc are all reduced to plant foods by the bacteria and thence to food for insects, snails and even fish.

EXCHANGE REVIEWS

by Steve Norris

The American Societies don't seem to have a committee as we do, they have a Board of Governors, which to me appears to me to be rather unfortunate owing to the fact that they tend to abbreviate so much. The latest laugh I had was in **NIAS** bulletin for April; they have written up their committee meeting under the heading "B.O.G. Report" !

Still with the April **NIAS** "Of tin cans and plastic bags" by Walt Marus caught my eye - apparently the editor of the bulletin, Sandy Dentzer, has had the article on ice for over a year and in her own words it really is worth waiting for. How about putting your *Bettas* (fighters to you) in tin cans or in plastic bags in 'fridge liners? If you want to go in for breeding fighters in a big way you ought to read this. By the way, there are holes in the cans and plastic bags.

For you Killie-fish fans there is an article that tells you how to obtain that soft peaty water that they love so much; but keep the wife out of the kitchen or she will go mad.

PetFish Monthly (May) has an article titled "Pencilfish breeding in pictures" by Rudolf Zukal with photographs by the author. There are eight photos of these little fish actually courting and spawning, together with a well written article to enlarge upon the photographs.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Steve Norris has found it necessary to give up the post of librarian owing to pressure of business. I am sure all members will join me in thanking Steve and Jacqueline for their excellent work for the club.

TABLE SHOW POSITIONS

D,Edwards.....	33 points	B.Dunn.....	7 points
R. Passmore	29 points	A.J.Mason.....	6 points
P.F. Capon.....	12 points	J. Norris.....	4 points
R. Wallings.....	11 points	A. Huxter.....	3 points
L.Mitchell.....	10 points	R. Parker.....	3 points
S. Norris.....	10 points	R.D. Orford.....	2 points
D. Cheswright.....	9 points	T. Carter.....	1 point
F. Hattam.....	8 points	T. King.....	1 points

There is a cup awarded for the highest points in the year

CLUB NEWS

Meeting April 16

TABLE SHOW ; CHARCINS

- 1., D. Edwards ,..... *Nannostomus trifasciatus*
- 2....D. Edwards *Leporinus frideriki*
- 3,,B. Dunn..... Salmon discus
- 4....B.Dunn..... *Nannostomus trifasciatus*

The show was judged by John Mason, there were 28 entries,

Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Finch kindly stepped into the breach and made the TEA, thank you ladies !

The raffle:-

- 1.. R. Orford. ,,.....,pair *Aphyosemion caliurum*
2. .C.Johnson. mini tank..

The highlight of the evening was a talk by Ed Hiccol of Thurrock Society on breeding. He covered most of the fishes that he has bred. He spoke of a spawning of *Corydoras auratus* but took no credit for the achievement stating that he did not breed the fish they bred for him. The interesting point about these *Corydoras* fry was that they did not look at all like fry, but as soon as they hatched they were miniature replicas of their parents. Before they became free swimming they propelled themselves around the tank by bouncing

Meeting May 7

The high-light of this meeting was a demonstration of setting up a furnished tank by Dave Cheswright and Michael Willis.

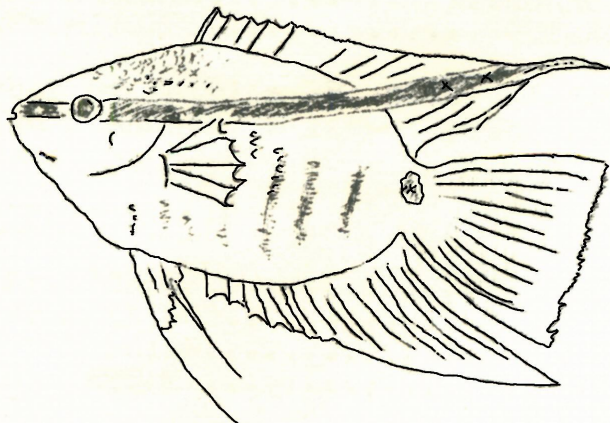
TABLE SHOW MINI TANK

- 1... P.F. Capon
- 2... F. Hattam.
- 3....R. Wallings
- 4....R. Passmore.

RAFFLE

- 1...J. Clark.....Undergravel filter.
- 2...A. Bobin.....Plants.
- 3....S. Hamblin.....Plants.

pet shop



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INTER CLUB MEETING AT BASILDON

TABLE SHOWS

DANIOS, RASBORAS, MOUNTAIN, MINNOWS.

- 1.. .Mr STRADWICK.....THURROCK
- 2...Mr CHESWRIGHT.....SOUTHEND.
- 3...Mr NICHOLS.....THURROCK.
- 4.. .Mr MITCHELL.....SOUTHEND.

Total number of entries 38, judge J. Stewart, remarks - ^A high standard. A lot of young fish mostly very promising.

MALE GUPPIES

- 1...Mr NICHOL3,.....THURROCK.
- 2.. .Mr WALLINGS.....SOUTHEND.
- 3...Mr O'BRIEN.....THURROCK.
- 4.. .Mr .HATTAM.....SOUTHEND.

Total number of entries 32 , judge J.Stewart,- remarks - Fish generally on the small side. A number of entries had wrong dorsal for tail.

CICHLIDS

- 1.. .Mr PASSMORE..... SOUTHEND.
- 2.. .Mr PASSMORE.....SOUTHEND.
- 3.. .Mr HARKIN.....THURROCK.
- 4...Mr FIELD.....EAST LONDON.

Total number of entries 29, judge C. Creeds- remarks - A class worthy of an open show - of really high standard. Some fish really too big to show in jars.

TOOTIH CARPS

- 1...Mr BAKER.....EAST LONDON.
- 2...Mr CAMPIN.....EAST LONDON.
- 3...Mr SMITH.....BASILDON.
- 4...Mr NICHOLS.....THURROCK.

Total number of entries 34, judge C. Creed - remarks - A difficult class to judge, points very close.

The total number of fishes benched was 133. Both judges agreed it was a fine table show, and both were surprised at the large number of entries and agreed it was a credit to the four clubs involved.

ERRATA since the previous page was made up we have been informed by Basildon that the first place in the Guppy class went to Mrs Armitage of East London and not to Mr Nicoll as stated.

The highlight of the Inter-club evening was a talk on Marines by Gerald Jennings , director of the International Marine Study Society.

Mr Jennings talk was very well received and even nearly converted your editor to marines (perhaps one day !). I do not intend to report the talk verbatim but have selected a few points that I think are of interest.

The pH of a healthy marine tank should be between 8.2 and 8.5, if the pH falls below 8.0 there can be difficulty.

He described the statement that a marine set-up would cost at least £40 as rubbish, the use of a Dynaflo or Eheim power filter was not required a standard filter powered by a good pump such as a Rena was all that was required.

The ion-exchange beads from Eheim were useful in removing all the liquid excrement.

Marines will eat almost all dry foods on the British Market, daphnia can be fed although they don't live long in salt water but the fish see to it that they do not last long In any case. Tubifex dies in sixty seconds and is not taken dead. white worms are. a good food but they do tend to fatten.

The best fish to start off with are the Clowns and Damsel .- the smaller cheaper types.

Whilst Mr Jennings was discussing the usual diseases of marines Mr Dryden of Aqua-Imports disagreed with him as to the cure for marine white spot. Mr Jennings recommended a copper sulphate solution whilst Mr Dryden maintained that Copper sulphate alone was no good it needed the addition of citric acid. Mr Jennings answer to Mr Dryden was that citric acid tended to neutralize the effect of the copper,

Somebody had it in for your poor editor at the Inter- Club first of all his pockets were filled up with broken biscuits and then someone made off with his White cloud leaving another in its place. I would not have minded but next evening this fish had DIED !!!!

Meeting May 21

PAIRS TABLE SHOW;

1. •R. Passmore.....Discus .
- 2...S. NorrisDwarf gouramis.
- 3...F. Hattam.....Rosy Barbs.
4. ..R. Wallings.....Guppies.

CRAZY TABLE SHOW;

- 1...Goldilocks and the three livebearers (Gold lace guppies).....S. Halttam
- 2...A11 alone with the moonlight (Moonlight gourami).....R. Wallings
- 3.-The spot has ended but the malady lingers on. (Leeri gourami).....J.Norri

Raffle

- 1..R.Nield.....heater and thermostat.
2. .B.Gothard 4 blue limia.

It is of note that both raffle winners are new members we trust you both enjoy our meetings.

The rest of the evening was taken up with a talk by D Cheswright on Pests and diseases. although I was on holiday my spies tell me that when ever Dave mentioned any pest -----certain members referred to my tanks I

Meeting June 4.

A.O.V. TABLE SHOW

- 1...D.Edwards.....red finned shark.....82 points
- 2.. .R. Parkergrass cutter catfish.79 points
3. .R.Orford.....upside down catfish77 popints
- 4...T.CarterFlying Fox.....:.....76 points

Raffle

- 1... Bob Orford.....Innes book.
- 2... Dave Cheswright .external type thermometer.

The evenings entertainment was completed with a slide quiz presented by Michael Willis.

Outing June 9

The outing was to Kew Gardens. Everyone appeared to enjoy themselves. The winners of the raffle were Mr Mitchell's guests and Cyril Johnson — the prizes weren't fishy but a box of chocolates

Meeting June 18

The main event of the evening was a talk on the labyrinths by your editor, (main event he must be joking I). Incidentally at least three quarters of those newly hatched leeri fry were still alive next evening. Considering they went all round the hall I reckon it just shows how tough they are.

The fry for the fry rearing competition were handed out - black mollies and guppies. These fry are to be brought back on October the 15 th for judging.

Raffle

- 1...Ray Nield.....pH test kit.
- 2...Ted Booth.....roberti barbs.

All members were pleased to see Ted Thompson attending our meetings again - glad to see you back Ted !

INTER-CLUB MEETING AT THURROCK July 1

CATFISH

- 1...Mrs Harris.....East London,
- 2...E. Nicoll.....Thurrock
- 3..G. Green.....East London.
- 4..R.Passmore.....Southend.

SWORDTAILS

- 1.. ,P .O'Brien.....Thurrock
- 2....D. Edwards.....Southend.
- 3...T. O'brien.....Thurrock
- 4... C. Baton.....Thurrock.

LABYRINTHS (other than Fighters)

1...D. Edwards.....	Southend.
2.. .D. Edwards.....	Southend,
3....D.Hornsby.....	Thurrock.
4....R. Strudwick.	Thurrock,

The points for this show were:-

SOUTHEND 11. THURROCK 13. EAST LONDON 6. BASILDON 0.

This gives the clubs positions and points to date:-

SOUTHEND 40. THURROCK 31. EAST LONDON 27. BASILDON 2

The next Inter-club meeting is at SOUTHEND on October 1 the classes are:-

A.O.V. TROPICAL. A.O.V. COLDWATER. CHARACINS. MOLLIES.

Although we are in the lead in the competition by nine this does not mean that we can sit back. The next show earn a further forty points. Dave Edwards is dying to use the inscribed gavel and block trophy so let's all bring along those prize winners.

The class that is going to be the most difficult for us is the A.O.V. Coldwater, my spies tell me that Ron Dodkins editor of East London's magazine has some beauties..

After that pep-talk let's get back to Thurrock. We were entertained to a lecture by Mr Creed on general breeding, whilst the judging, was in progress, amongst many other points Mr Creed mentioned that a Southend member was the first aquarist to breed the neon tetra in this part of the country.

The highlight of the evening, for me at least, was the sight of Bob Wallings chasing his catfish along the table. The cat jumped out of it's tank and proceeded to hop along the table. When Bob tried to grab it the brute stabbed him with it's dorsal rays. All this took place with Mr Jessop seated at the table you could see him almost taking off points for deportment.

How about a catfish race for one of our table shows - you've got a winner there.!

Meeting. July 2

TABLE SHOW A.O.V. COLDWATER

Judged by our old friend and ex-president Stan Halsey

- 1... R. Passmore
- 2...L. Mitchell
- 3...L. Mitchell
- 4...D. Edwards

TABLE SHOW LABYRINTHS

- 1...D,. Edwardscombtail
- 2...A. Huxter.....blue fighter.
3. .F. Hattam..... .opaline gourami
4. ..P. Capon.....opaline gourami

The labyrinths show was judged by Bob Passmore who stepped into the breach when Ed Nicoll failed to turn up. Ed turned up in the end - his lift failed to turn up. Ed brought with him Dave Edwards Snakeskin Gourami which had won the best fish in the show 'award at Thurrock the previous evening. What came over you Dave - overwhelmed at our club's position.

The evening was completed by Stan answering questions on his beloved coldwater fish.

Stan maintained that coldwater fish kept in a pond had 50% better colour than those kept in an aquarium with light coming at them all round. This is a point to bear in mind when selecting fish for the coldwater class in the Inter-club show

Many people purchasing goldfish from him would maintain them in bowls and when the water became dirty they simply took the fish out washed the bowl under the tap refilled with cold tap water and popped the fish back. The temperature in the bowl could be 65°F and the tap water 35°F several such drastic treatments and the fish died. Then Stan was accused of selling poor fish:

On the sexing he stated that the male goldfish have little pimples or marks on the gill plates and also that the first ray of the pectoral fins are stiff like a piece of wire in the males whilst the females are soft.

Stan also warned of the effects of garden sprays etc on fish. He told of one gentleman who killed all his fish by allowing a lawn treatment to find it's way into the pond. Too many gardeners have become "spray-happy" with disastrous effects on aquatic life.

Raffle

- 1...Alan Chambers.....Es Es thermostat.
- 2...Mrs Mitchell.....platys
- 3...Mrs Mitchell,.....platys.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Meeting February 29, at 39, Grafton Road, Canvey.

Present President, Secretary, Treasurer, Tom King, Bob Passmore, Don Finch, Peter Capon, Steve Norris, apologies from Bob Wallings and John Mason.

The preceding general meeting were discussed. Enquiries were to be made as to storage space at the hall. The visit to Kew was arranged.

Meeting March 28, at 165, Bull Lane, Rayleigh.

Present. President, Secretary, Treasurer, John Mason, Steve Norris, Don Finch, Bob Passmore, Peter Capon, Tom King; apologies from Bob Orford & Bob Passmore.

The Secretary to ask Editor of PetFish to talk at our Inter- Club night. The treasurer to check on members who have not paid their subscriptions for this year

Meeting April 24, at 27, Grovewood avenue, Rayleigh.

Present President, Secretary, Treasurer. Don Finch, Steve Norris Bob Wallings, Peter Capon, apologies Bob Orford and Bob Passmore
(N.B. Bob Orford co-opted after offering to duplicate .journal)

The reallocation of cup to fish classes -was discussed and left until latter in the year. The treasurer reported that the club had 45 paid up members. Arrangements were made for S.L.A. D.A.S. officers to take food to Basildon Inter-club show as BASILDON were short of members. Steve Norris resigned as Librarian but offered to remain as committee member. The library was made FREE with a charge of a 1/- fine per meeting for overdue books. The President suggested one or two members becoming F.B.A.A. judges.

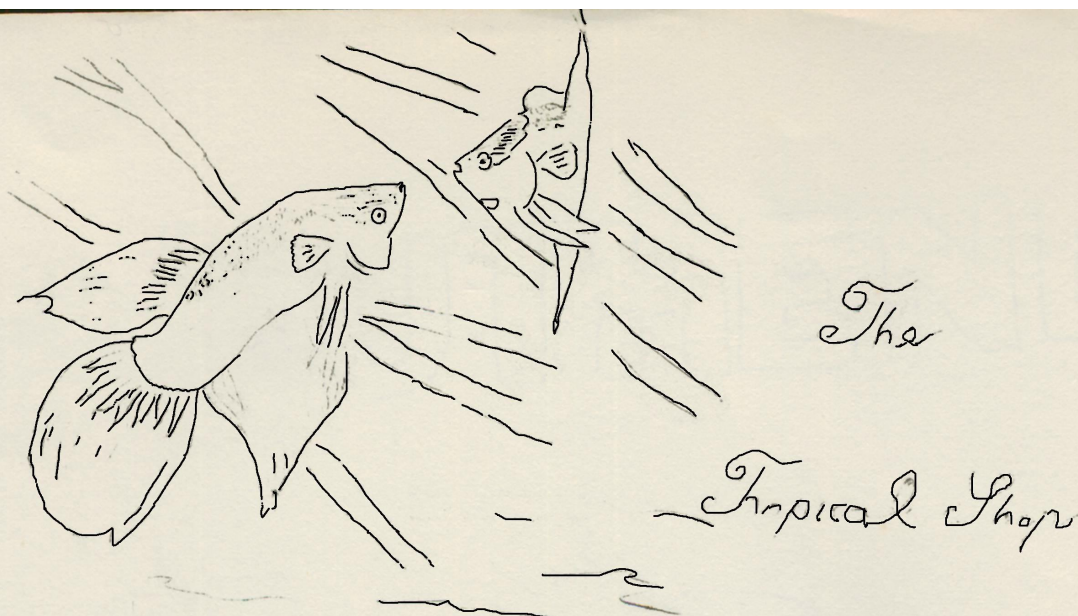
Meeting 29 May, at 36, Grafton Road, Canvey.

Present President, Secretary, Treasurer, Tom King, Peter Capon, Bob Orford, Don Finch, Jack Redington, and Bob Pnssmore.
apologies from, John Mason and Steve Norris.

The Secretary confirmed that the Editor of PetFish would speak at our Inter-Club meeting. Under any other business the question of an annual Show was raised it was decided to call a Special General Meeting in September to enable all members to discuss this. The annual Dinner and Dance was provisionally booked for November 16.

A. NEW LEASE OF LIFE FOR THE JOURNAL

On the meeting on July the 2nd we discussed the purchase of a new duplicator. Bob Orford tells me that he has managed to acquire a new one at only a fraction of normal price. Our next issue should be run off on this and we expect it to improve the journal



TROPICAL FISH - PLANTS - AQUARIA AND ALL EQUIPMENT

COLDWATER FISH - PONDS - FOUNTAINS - LILIES - ETC

MYNAHS - BUDGERIGARS - CANARIES - LARGE VARIETY

FOREIGN BIRDS - PARROTS - PARRAKEETS - HAMSTERS

TERRAPINS - GRASS SNAKES

PARROT CAGES - BREEDING CAGES - STANDS

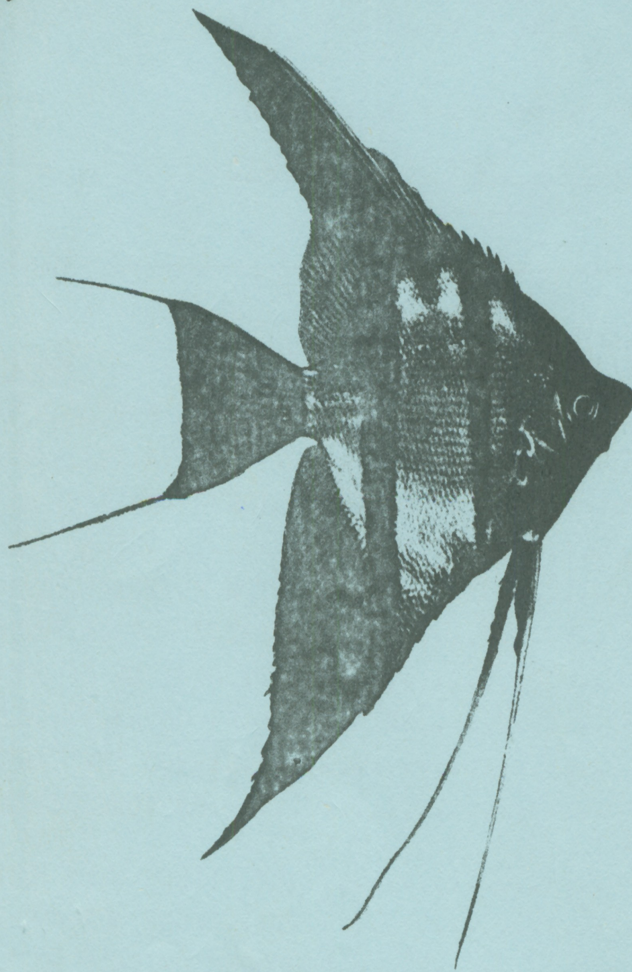
ALL AT :-

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WEST CLIFF-ON-SEA.

TELEPHONE SOUTHEND

45554

SOUTHEND, LEIGH & DISTRICT



AQUARIST SOCIETY.

founded 1938

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(founded 1938, or before)

The Society meets every first and third Tuesday in each month at 8.00 pm, at :-

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WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA
ESSEX.**

BI- MONTHLY JOURNAL Number 22

SEPTEMBER 1968

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S.L.A.D.A.S. IS THIRTY. THE JOURNAL IS TWENTY.

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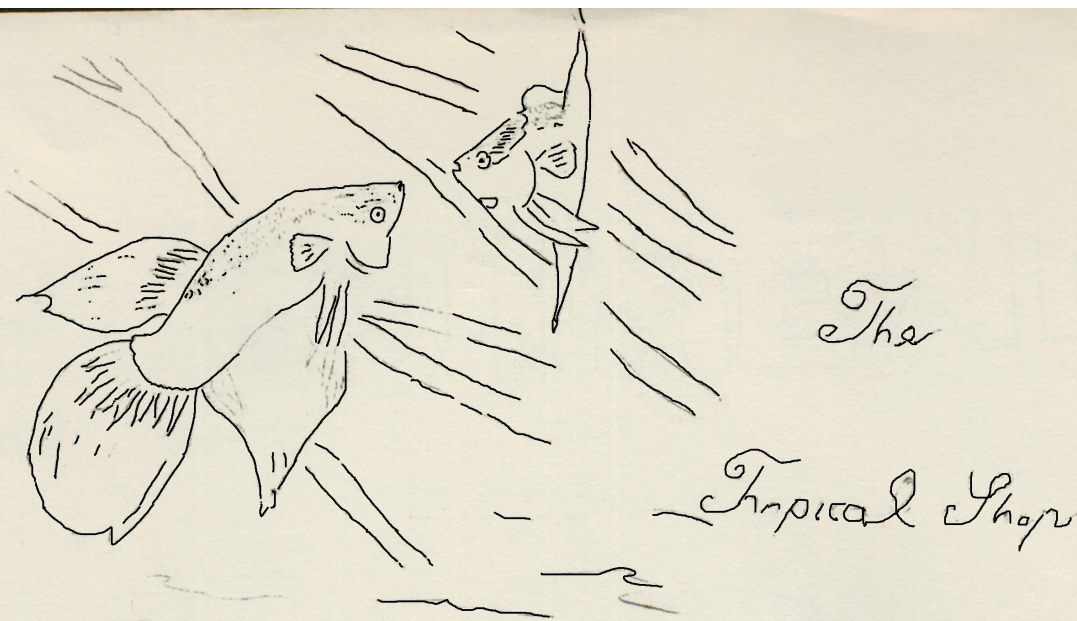
D. Finch

NOTICES

EDITORS OF CLUB MAGAZINES; PERISSION IS GIVEN TO REPRINT
S.L.A.D.AS. ARTICLES. A COPY OF THE MAGAZINE FOR THE AUTHOUR
WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

EXCHANGE MAGAZINES TO BE SENT TO THE EDITOR.

SOCIETIES OR PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS MAY SUBSRIBE TO THIS JOURNAL
RATES ON APPLICATION.



TROPICAL FISH - PLANTS - AQUARIA AND ALL EQUIPMENT

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EDITORIAL

This issue of the JOURNAL is the first one to be printed on our new Gestetner Duplicator, I trust it meets with every one's approval.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking Bob Orford for having taken over the printing and making up of our magazine and especially for his efforts in locating the new duplicator at such a reasonable price.

Thanks Bob !

'What do you think of our cover ? This is Bob's doing with I suspect help from Maureen.

Whilst we have got better printing facilities do not forget that we do like to have something to print, if you can't write how about some cartoons?

ANTHONY EVANS GUEST LECTURER FOR S.L.A.D.A.S. INTER-CLUB EVENING

S.L.A.D.A.S. have been fortunate enough to get Anthony Evans as our guest speaker for our Inter-club evening on the first of October. Need I say that Anthony Evans is the Editor of PetFish Monthly. Prior to his taking up the editor's chair with PFM he was for many years the Editor of that other British magazine the Aquarist,

Needless to say these posts that he has held will ensure us of an entertaining and enlightening evening.

Do not miss it — October the first ! Incidentally the classes for the table show are :-

A.O.V. TROPICAL. A.O.V. COLDWATER. CHARACINS. MOLLIES.

The points to date are;-

SOUTHEND 40, THURROCK 31, EAST LONDON 27, BASILDON 2.

There are a further forty points to be won so we are not home and dry yet, don't disappoint Dave Edwards he is dying to get his hands on that enshrined gavel and block trophy.

Let's round off our thirtyeth year by winning !!

NAPPY BLUES (a true story)

by M. Orford,

On Methylene Blue I sit and muse
"Why" ? you ask "have I got the blues"
I'll tell you why I'm most unhappy
The stuffs all over baby's nappies.

I left them there to be dried and aired
While I did the dishes
Never dreaming they would be impaired
In the cause of those awful fishes.

Remember when you use the stuff
Always replace the stopper
Else when you pick it up next time
You'll likely come a cropper.

Now if on your travels you should meet
A child with polka-dotted seat
Don't be scared and turn and run
It's only Robert Orford's son !

AQUATIC FASHION NOTE

by Jackie Norris.

Did you see this? Found in the Newport A/S magazine a reprint from the Daily Mirror for June the 26th.

Minute globes of coloured water containing tiny "rainbow" fish are being worn on a chain around ladies necks. The top unscrews to feed the fish and change the colour of the water to match other accessories. Life expectation of the fish is twelve months"

Don't be surprised if I turn up at the next meeting with Steve's best guppy in a paste pot suspended around my neck.

SOMETHING FOR NOTHING

by R. Wallings.

Most hobbyists who use brine shrimp merely prepare salt water and then add the eggs. After the eggs hatch, the baby brine shrimp are drained off and the remainder is usually either thrown away or re-drained to harvest all of the shrimps. But -what is left is still very useful; instead of just throwing away the remainder and starting afresh -keep the old cultures.

Place the old culture -with all those eggs that did not hatch and the dead shrimp into as large a vessel as possible and fill to about half way with water. The point is to -wash your old brine shrimp jars out in this and throw your old brine shrimp water in as well. When the water reaches a specific gravity of about 1.010 the baby shrimp will start to grow. At higher readings (about 1.020) the baby shrimp thrive and grow very rapidly.

In about three weeks you will have mature brine shrimp to feed to your adult fishes. They really go for live mature brine shrimp'.

The surprise is that it is not necessary to feed the Brine shrimp for if the culture is in the sunlight they get enough to eat from organisms naturally present in the air. Of course, by washing your jars and adding the residues from them to the cultures you are adding material which will turn into food for the shrimps.

Brine shrimp prefer clear water and if the water is fouled by different forms of food all out your jars and dump all the the shrimps will die. Just wash out your jars and dump all ther shrimp refuse into your culture but do not add any extra food-

If the specific gravity finally reaches about 1.030 to 1.035 it would be wise. to lower it by draining off a portion of the water and adding some tap water.

Brine shrimp is easier to g;row than daphnia and they will even breed in your culture

extracted from A.K.A. Notes.

Editor's Note

I have produced a small but regular quantity of adult shrimps by this method or rather a similar system for the last two years.

EXCHANGE REVIEWS

by J. Norris

There is a splendid article by Dolores Bialk in the February **SPLASH** (Milwaukee A/S) entitled 'Magic - Infusoria'

It seems that this lady's husband banished her to the basement with her fish some years ago and now her fish room sounds a dream with hot and cold running water. She goes on to explain how she became interested in culturing infusoria, and she really knows what she is talking about.

Ella Pittman has won awards for her contributions to tropical fish magazines, it seems that you can't open a copy of the **COLORADO AQUARIST** without finding an interesting and informative article bearing her signature- (Bet our Editor wishes he could say the same about some of our members). In the April issue Ella tells how she crossed Leopard Danios with, Zebras. The results were pretty good, read the article and see. An article by Ella on 'white spot can be found in the June issue, very handy reading for the newcomer to fishkeeping.

Another good item entitled the "Ever Popular Angel-fish" by Alice Eman is pretty informative and well written, nice and clear, this is also in the June issue of the **Colorado Aquarist**,

Did you know that there are different species of *Betta* that are mouthbreeders? Well there are, read the article in the April edition of the **INFORMER** (Greenwater A/S) and find out.

The Editor will please correct me if I'm wrong, but what to me is the first Canadian aquarium Society bulletin has just reached us. It's the **CALQUARIUM** (Calgary A/S). Their approach seems very friendly and I found myself quite absorbed, in my view this is a welcome addition to our exchanges.

Though not exactly a fishy feature, Sandy Dentzer gives an amusing account of a trip to a Cincinnati beauty spot made by some members of the North Eastern Indiana A/S. It seems that our family weren't the only ones to have car troubles on a trip to the woods, (it was the New Forest in our case), see the **N.I.A.S.** bulletin for June.

Another "did you know". Did you know that by the use of cine film a barb has been shown to swim at the rate of twenty times its body length per second. Read the fascinating article by R.. Alexander in the July **PetFish Monthly** entitled "How fast is a fish".

Also in this issue Jim Kelly gives "Ten tips for Holiday Makers", very useful. Other items include for the Killie fish

fans an article on *Aphyosemion nigeranum* (with photos').

In the August edition of **P.F.M** there comes a word of 'warning in the letters column, it seems that someone supplied an aquarist with garden worms dug from a lawn that had been doctored with weed killer. The poor chap lost two Oscars but managed to save the third - his favourite. He reckons that it must have been the garden worms that caused the trouble.

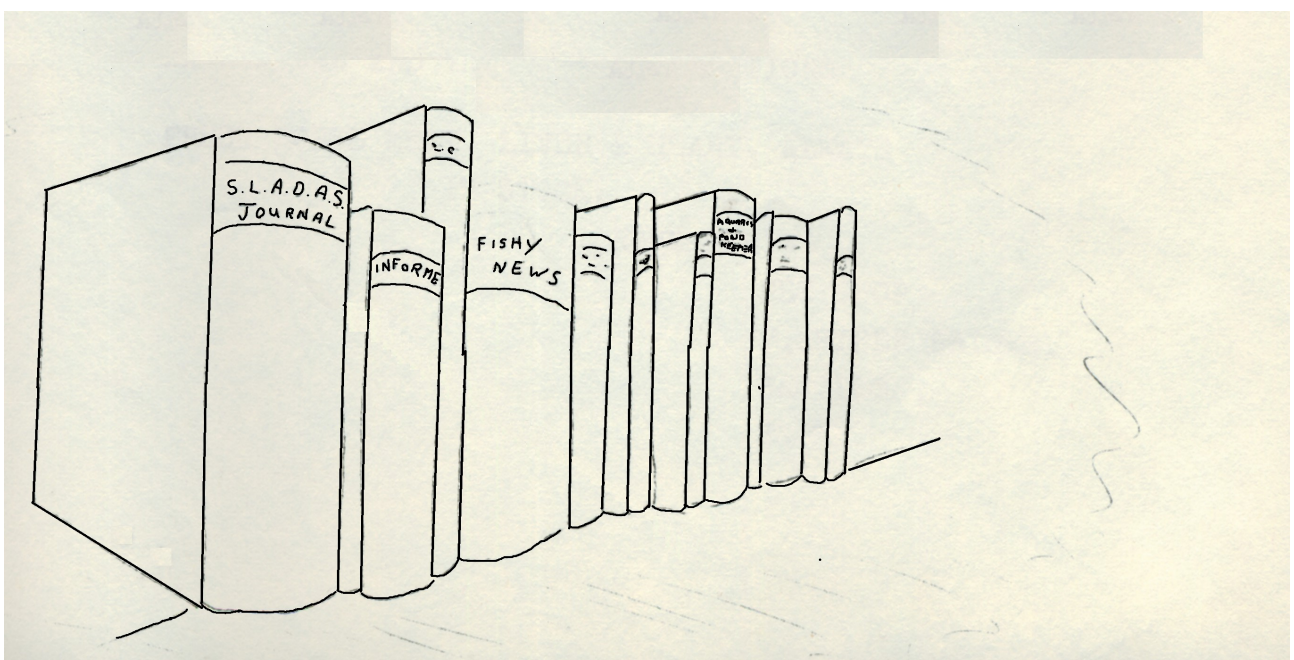
This issue could also be of help to the new-comer who is hesitant about the planting and set-up of his tank; there are photographs and diagrams of some prize winning tanks from the National Furnished Aquarium Show.

A good item about lighting qualities - "Tungsten or Tubes" by R.C. Mills is to be found in the July **AQUARIST**. This fellow tried tungsten and produced lovely algae, was discouraged by the cost of a Gro-lux tubes and finally settled on warm white fluorescent tubes. Some helpful wiring diagrams here too, but for diagram three see the correction in the August aquarist page 510.

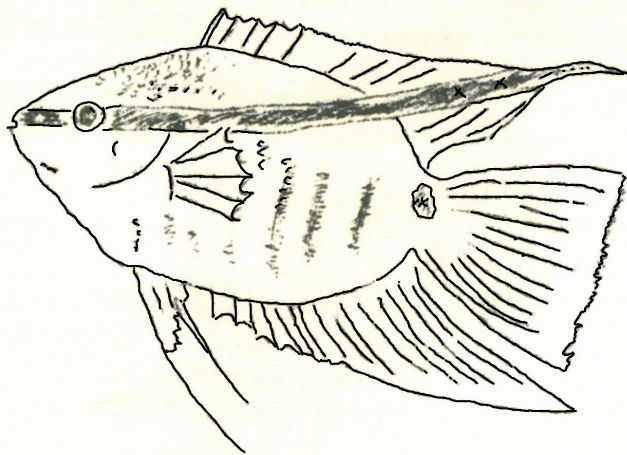
All the magazines reviewed are available from the library at no charge. Many other magazines from clubs in this country and abroad are available, read how aquarists in other countries run their shows and clubs, many useful breeding tips can be picked up from our exchange magazines. Ask our new librarian Jack Reddington to show them to you. Jack can lend you books on almost every aspect of our hobby.

By the time this Journal is published we should have the complete "Enjoy Your Fishes" series of books.

Please ask Jack, he'll be only too pleased to lend you a book.



pet shop



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GOLDFISH SAVED FROM DROWNING

by P.F. Capon.

Mr Peter Humphrey 5 a water purification consultant, of Uxbridge, saved George the Goldfish from drowning on Wednesday the 12th of August, according to a report in the Daily Telegraph.

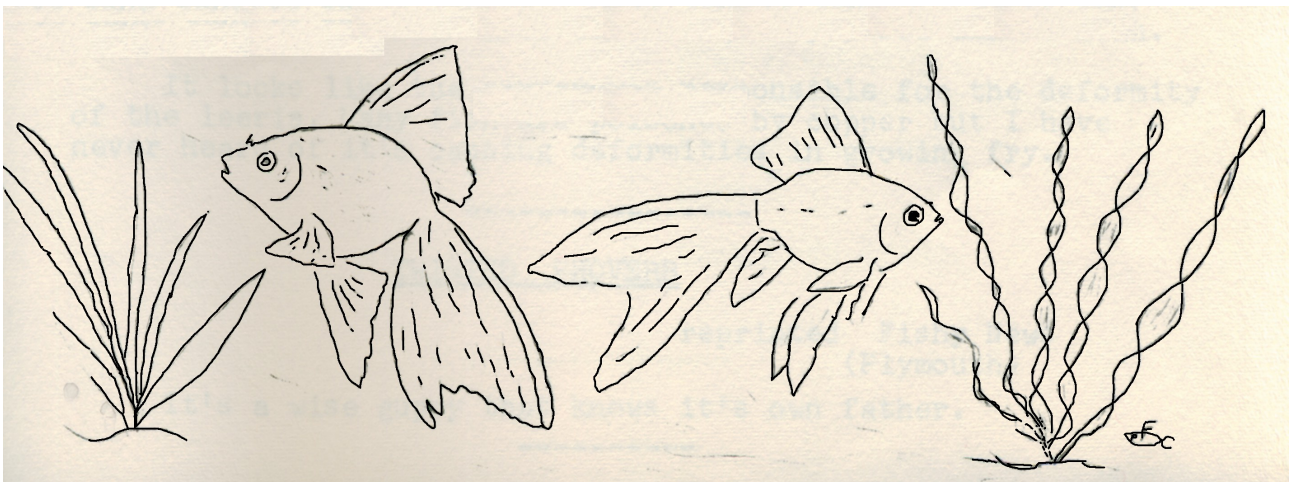
An R.S.P.C.A. inspector said, "Mr Humphrey's prompt action undoubtedly saved the fish's life. I will be preparing a full report to put before the awards committee. Not many people know that a fish can drown if it swallows too much water" I would hate to think- how many goldfish owners would have stood by and let the fish drown because they did not know what was wrong..

Mr Humphrey said" I took the fish from the pond and found it's mouth jammed by a pebble. I eased the pebble out and re-placed George in the water. It was obvious to me by the way the fish was behaving that it was drowning. It kept gasping on the surface and then sinking. Normally a fish takes water through the mouth and expels it through the gills after taking the oxygen out of it.

"But George was gulping water down at such a rate that he could not get any oxygen. The pebble was a quarter of an inch across. It took me about a minute to get it free."

Well, there you are that is roughly what the paper reported do you believe it? I can see that a pebble could jam the mouth open and so keep the gill covers closed but —. Let's have your views readers can a fish drown.

If the R.S.P.C.A. is setting interested in fish why don't they start a campaign against that abomination the goldfish- bowl? Incidentally would they be interested in the diet of Dave Edwards Oscar? -if so we might have to visit Dave in a place up on the moors. It's all right Dave they don't proceed against people like you it's a kindness to dispose of runts QUICKLY.



LEERIS AND COPPER

by P.F .Capon-

Some months ago Dave Cheswright let me have a pair of Leeris (*Trichogaster leeri*). This pair obliged by breeding soon after I got them whilst Dave's remaining pairs refuse to perform.

When the brood was about six weeks old I noticed that a number of them had twisted backs. I sorted out these runts and fed them to the fighters. As the days went by more fry runted. At a loss to explain what was going on I moved the remaining fishes to another tank. from then on things seemed to improve those fry that still had straight backs began to grow and those that had runted didn't get any worse.

Eventually I sorted the fry out again and was left with only twenty decent fish out of an original brood of about two hundred. Dave Edwards' Oscar was invaluable in disposing of the remaining runts.

By this time the parent Leeris had bred again and I placed the eggs in the same tank but with fresh (rain) water. Again the fry started to develop twisted spines but now they start- to die off as well. The whole brood runted and died, in a matter of days. At this stage I began to suspect that the parents were responsible for the poor youngsters through having been inbred.

Again the parents presented me with a nest but this time I placed the eggs in a different tank and the fry thrived and not one had a bad back. They are still going strong after ten weeks.

Then it dawned on me in the first tank I had placed a piece of copper to ward off "velvet". I had found copper to be relatively harmless with fighters and Thick-lips (*Colisa labiosa*). A few snails dropped into the original tank died overnight a sure sign of copper dissolved in the water. Incidentally snails make good canaries , if you see what I mean.

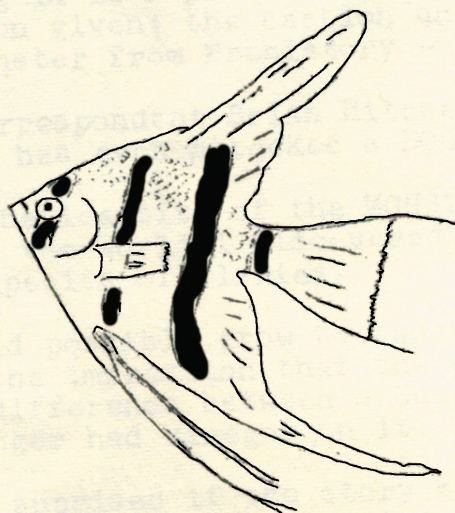
It looks like the copper was responsible for the deformities of the leeris. Many fish are poisoned by copper but I have never heard of it's causing deformities in growing fry.

TWISTED PROVERB

reprinted Fishy News (Plymouth)

It's a wise guppy that knows it's own father.

Stan's



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■■■■■■■■■■

TABLE SHOW POSITIONS

D. Edwards	33 points	B. Dunn	7 points
R. Passmore	32 points	R. Parker	6 points
F. Hattam	12 points	A. J. Mason	6 points
P. Capon	12 points	J. Norris	4 points
R. Wallings	11 points	A. Huxter	3 points
S. Norris	10 points	R. Orford	2 points
L. Mitchell	10 points	T. King	1 point
D. Cheswright	9 points	T. Carter	1 point

Do not forget Inter-club SHOWS also carry points for S.L.A.D.A.S. members.

AROUND THE SHOWS

Brian Dunn has been at it again! At Catford he took 1st in the characins with a *Nannostomus trifasciatus*, 1st in the A.O.V. with a *Broechus*, 3rd in the plant class with Vallis, and 3rd in the tooth-carp class with a blue gularis

At the Dagenham show he took 1st in the Dwarf cichlids with an Orange chromide, and 2nd in the A.O.V. Cats.

A FISH HUNTING HEDGEHOG !

by P.F.Capon.

In a recent report compiled by the London Natural History Society tells of a fish eating hedgehog.

Late one evening in Hampton a hedgehog was seen swimming in a garden pond carrying a large goldfish in its mouth.

This appears to be an unusual case for the normal diet of the hedgehog is small insects, slugs etc. this is as far as I know the only case of hedgehogs eating fish.

COMING EVENTS

Dinner and Dance will take place in November, see Dave Cheswright for further details,

SOCIAL EVENING will take place on Tuesday the 17th of December at the Bell.

CLUB NEWS

Meeting July 16

The advertised programme for this evening was an auction and a talk on cichlids. the number of items for the auction was so great that the whole evening was taken up with it. There was not even time for the usual raffle.

Of mention among the articles for auction was a bow-- front tank put up by Colin Ward: Colin donated all proceeds to the club funds. Normally the club takes a 20%. cut on all proceeds.

Meeting August 6

The highlight of the evening was the cichlid table show;

- 1...F. Hattam.....Oscar or marble cichlid.
- 2.♦♦R. Passmore.....Discus.
- 3...R. Parker.....Jack Dempsey.
- 4...R. Parker.....Angel.

The show was judged by our old friend from Thurrock Ed Niccol, there were twenty two entries.

The raffle prizes went to E.d Niccol (agassisi) and Mr Clark (white spot cure). The agassisi were to have been raffle prizes for the previous meeting, Bob Passmore kept these fishes at home between meetings and they repaid him by spawning !

COMMITTEE MEETING

The meeting was held at 9 Locarno Avenue, Runwell, present were President, secretary, treasurer, Bob Passmore, Bob Wallings Peter Capon, John Mason, Bob Orford, and Tom King. Apologies from Jack Reddington and Steve Norris, and Don Finch.

The treasurer confirmed that the Dinner Dance had been booked at the Airport for November 16 and the tickets would be between 32/6d and 3?/-5 a provisional booking of 40/50.

It was suggested that the club might like to consider creating life members.

The possible purchase of a new duplicator for the JOURNAL was discussed.

Meeting August 20

This evening we had a general discussion on breeding and the Judging competition. The results of which were;-

- 1.....Mr Clark
- 2.....Mr Prockter
- 3.....N. Sellers
- 4.....M. Goodall
- 5.....D. Finch

The raffle was won by.-

- 1... Ted Booth.... aquarium
- 2....Colin Bloxham. fungus cures

The fungus cures were donated by Frank Hattam.

The evening was rounded off with a show of slides taken by Mike Goodall. These slides were of excellent quality , as good as any I have seen. Mike must have put a great deal of effort into this side of his hobby. I thought the close-up of the pipe-fishes head and snout was incredible.

Having Mike as a S.L.A.D.A.S. member it looks as though our hopes to increase the scope of our slide library may well succeed.

DROWNING OF LABYRINTH FISHES

by P.F. Capon.

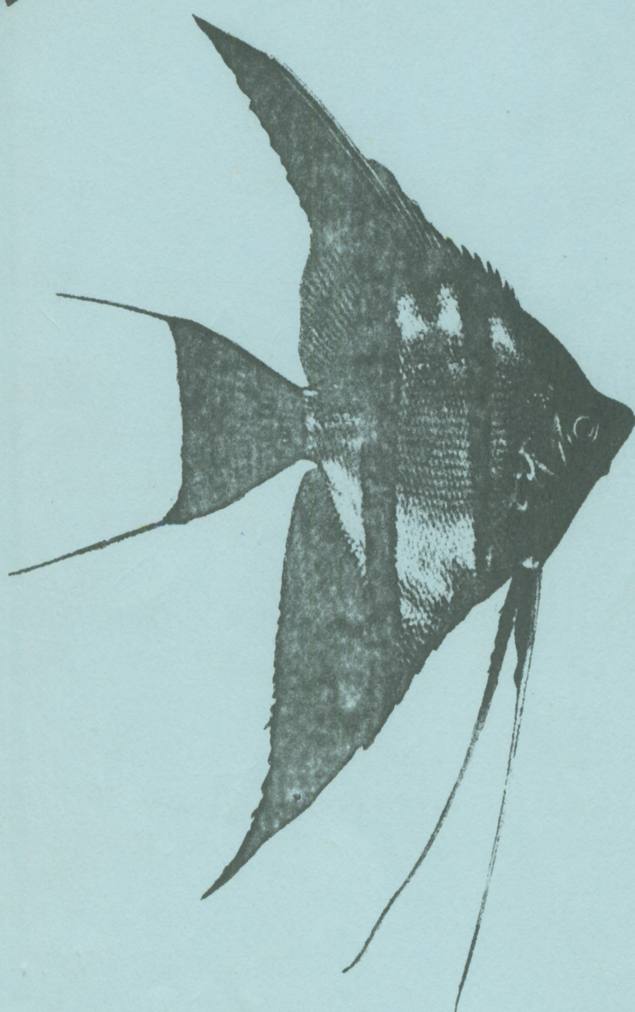
The Sherley division of Ashe Laboratories, Surrey are about to enter the fish world with a range of "cures". Sherleys have marketed dog remedies for many years presumably successfully.

I hope to be able to tell you the contents of their range of "Aquatic Aids" in the next issue (chemical contents that is).

With each of their "aids" they issue a booklet on diseases in this they claim that Labyrinths can drown if there is not enough air in, repeat ,in the water.

Obviously they know little about fish but claim to cure their diseases, this inspires confidence in their cures, I don't think!

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**BI-MONTHLY JOURNAL Number 23
NOVEMBER 1968**

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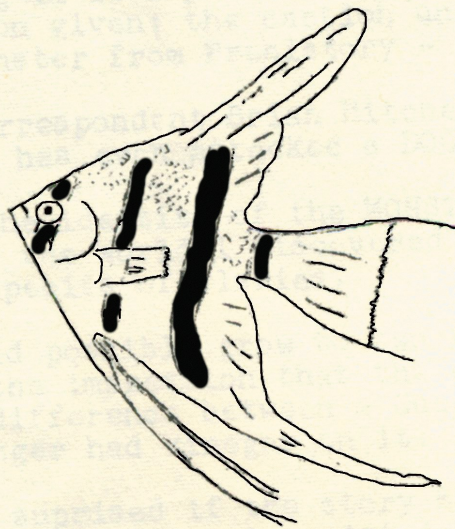
NOTICES

EDITORS OF CLUB MAGAZINES; PERISSION IS GIVEN TO REPRINT
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WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

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EDITORIAL

The most important meeting of S.L.A.D.A.S.'s year -

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING takes place on November the 19th !

This is the meeting at which you express your wishes as to how YOUR club should be run. Elect whomsoever you wish to run the club. Chuck out all the old committee if you so wish.

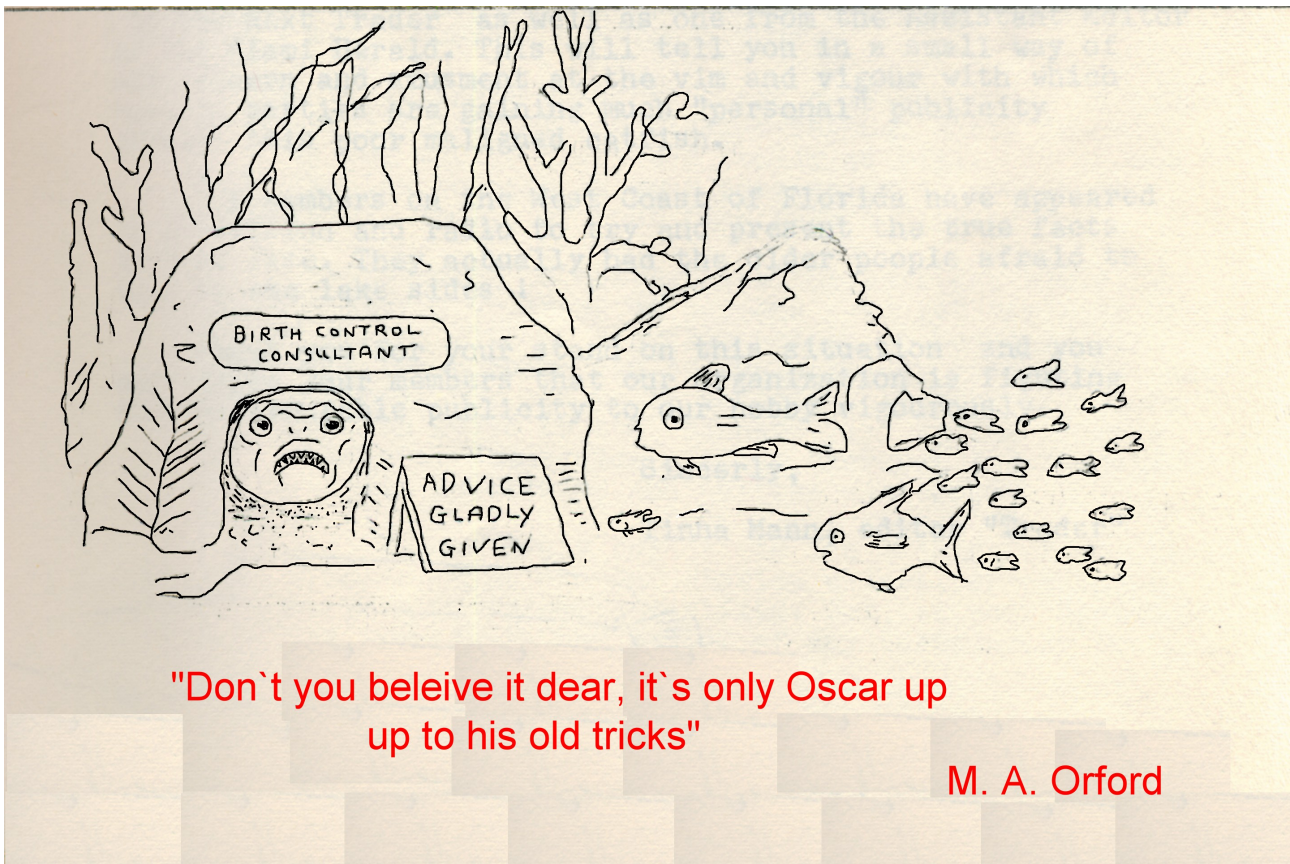
Please make an extra effort to attend this meeting as it will effect the way the club is run for the next year,

Don't be afraid that by attending you will have a post pressed on you — NOBODY is forced to take office in S.L.A.D.A.S.

Whilst on the subject of the A.G.M. and the elections Michael Willis informs me that he wishes to stand down from the post of Secretary. He may find it necessary to move some time in the next year and would not therefore be able to carry out the duties that the post entails. Michael has been an officer for as long as I can remember and he deserves all our thanks for the effort he has put in on the Society's behalf.

This is our last issue before Christmas -- all the Officers of S.L.A.D.A.S. would like to wish our readers --

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND MANY SPAWNINGS IN THE NEW YEAR



FISH BITES DOG -THE TRUTH

In our July issue of this JOURNAL (Number 21) we commented on an article in the Daily Mirror that spoke of a monster catfish that had attacked a dog. ! Your editor expressed the opinion that the report was a load of bunk !

Mrs Tina Mann editor of the "Trader" the publication of the Florida Tropical Fish Industries has been kind enough to write, including with her letter a copy of a retraction printed in the Miami Herald (presumably this is where the Mirror got the story from), and a copy of an editorial which is to appear in the "Trader" in the near future.

The retraction in the Miami Herald is taken from this same editorial. To do justice to Tina Mann's argument -we are reprinting both her letter and her editorial.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR OF THE TRADER

Sir

I read with great interest your editorial in the July issue of the JOURNAL on the "Swampland Terror....."

Enclosed is a copy of an editorial which will appear in the next Trader as well as one from the Assistant Editor of the Miami Herald. This will tell you in a small way of our concern and amusement at the vim and vigor with which certain parties are gaining much "personal" publicity through this poor maligned catfish,

Our members on the West Coast of Florida have appeared on television and radio to try and present the true facts in this case. They actually had the older people afraid to walk on the lake sides !

Thank you for your stand on this situation and you may assure your members that our organization is fighting this unfavourable publicity to our hobby vigourously.

Sincerely,

Tina Mann, editor "Trader"

ALBINO CLARIAS ACCUSED IN SOUTH FLORIDA

by Tina Mann
(editor TRADER)

The big news story of yesteryear was "Man bites Dog" but in this more sophisticated era the big headline is talking Catfish attacks Dog"

Recently, staring back at me from the front page of the Miami Herald was the alleged criminal our old friend, *Clarias batrachus*, better known to millions of tropical fish buffs albino Clarias. All that was missing was a striped suit for Clarias and bars from which to stick his whiskers !

The first charge against Clarias was that he leaped on a bank and attacked a Dog in said dogs own backyard. Shades of 'David and Goliath'. The dog was over 25 times as large as the catfish. The reporter neglected to say whether a sling was found at the scene. All who are knowledgeable about tropical fish realize that this is as ridiculous as a butterfly attacking a shark in the middle of the ocean. (But it would make an equally good story).

When the story first broke in the newspapers in South Florida, those familiar with tropical fish (Albino Clarias particular) couldn't take it seriously, We reckoned without taking into consideration the Florida Game and Freshwater Commission and Vernon Ogilvie of Exotic Research who with vigour and zeal launched a witches hunt,

Within three short weeks they not only succeeded in banning the importation of albino Clarias through their frenzied efforts, but the entire Claridae family as well. It is punishable by law to have in your possession in your home aquarium, retail shop, or your fish farm a Clarias.

It is frightening to contemplate the ease and rapid with which a person or group of persons can get any form of "livestock" banned. without a public notice or hearing where all aspects of the problem can be evaluated by responsibly qualified persons. How can we be assured that more and fishes will not be added to the "banned" list by the Florida Game and Freshwater Commission without thorough investigation and notice to all industries and parties concerned?

Certainly no one would object to the banning of a potentially dangerous element in our Florida waters, after these dangers have been judiciously verified. But, we most decidedly should object when it is the policy of any bureaucracy to "act first and look later".

As it now stands, state agents may enter your fish farm, retail store or home and poison any member of the Clariidae family in your possession without prior notice, that is if they recognise it.

Several years ago, after requesting a permit to keep piranhas in a home aquarium and after being informed that a permit was not necessary, a member of the Florida Game and Freshwater Commission arrived to "inspect" the piranhas, and asked, "which fish is it, I've never seen one before".

Florida biologists, in a rash of newspaper articles, have sounded ominous warnings about an "up-ending of nature's balance in the South" due to the "walking catfish" as the albino Clarias was promptly nicknamed.

Many charges, have been leveled at the Clarias by Mr Ogilvie which have lead to widespread poisoning of the waterways with rotenone to smother the fish. The effects of rotenone will last a week, and of course is not selective in killing only the Clarias; all other forms of animal life are obliterated as well.

Some of the charges made by Mr Ogilvie, in news releases are;- "It's a monster"; "when the fish killing toxin is dumped into the waterways, they crawl away"; "I think" think it is one of the worst things that has ever happened to South Florida as far as fish are concerned"; "if you get a net after it, it avoids the net and you have to chase it down", "they can crawl out on the banks and travel over-land where-ever it desires by 'walking on it's elbows' like a person trained to walk in combat". ...All this besides attacking dogs in their spare time !

All albino forms of life are constantly preyed upon by other life forms for the simple reason that they are "different" and stand out with their white skin and pink eyes. Mr Ogilvie states that the albino Clarias has no known natural enemies. Is the albino Clarias contrary to nature or did Mr Ogilvie search thoroughly into this matter before 'burning the witch'?

The grown Clarias is an excellent food source, as has been attested to by many, in addition to several reputable state officials, who tried it last week. With fishermen decrying the scant supply of edible fish in the canals hereabouts, this needs exploring. None of this has slowed down the determined drive for extinction of the Clarias here by our "dedicated" public servants.

Ponder the insight to human nature- of conservationists when they said "We fear this fish because so little is known about it"

How like man to destroy what he does not understand and to ask questions after, why wasn't more found out about the Clarias before the laws were made to exterminate them, by any means, from your farm, your store, or your home. In a "raid" by the game commission last week at one fish farm, over 1,500 Clarias were poisoned in the outside ponds.

The albino Clarias has existed in it's present form, as have other members of the Claridae family, for untold years in it's native lands without danger to *Homo sapiens*, or other animal-life forms.

Has Mr Ogilvie or members of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Commission considered that this 'tropical fish' is not known to survive in water at 50 degrees or lower? In the winter months the canal water in Florida reaches this temperature during our cold snaps, serving to control the albino Clarias from excessive multiplication. Has any one considered that *Clarias batrachus*, the species under fire, is not tolerant of salty water? The waters of many of our South Florida canals are brackish. The foods that they eat are the same as in their native lands. It consists of small fish, tadpoles, small frogs, and snails, (the same I might add, of bass, bream, and other native Florida fishes). It's diet has not tipped the scales of balance in it's native lands.

The dangers cited by those who are killing the fish with abandonment are ludicrous to all those who are familiar with the Clarias, especially those who have maintained it in home aquariums. Certainly they have voracious appetites, but dozens of other of other larger tropical and native fish also eat like there is no tomorrow,. Jumpers, yes and so are countless other tropical fish, hence the need for covered aquariums.

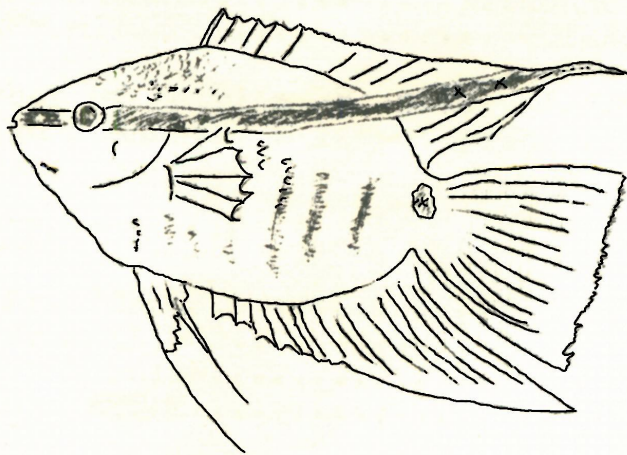
Can they live out of water for indefinite periods as intimated by those on the "witches hunt"? Most catfishes and lung-fishes can survive out of water longer than most other species, but depicting the Clarias as "walking" mile upon mile, hour after hour, eating from the land and attacking dogs reads like something out of a science fiction novel.

The half truths presented to substantiate the Fish Commissions actions are hard to swallow, particularly to tropical fish farmers, importers, retailers, and hobbyists throughout the land. Why were none of these persons contacted in the Fish Commission's search for truth?

On one hand Mr Ogilvie is quoted as saying "It might turn out to be a pretty good fish and never cause any trouble but how can I control it?" and on the other hand he declares , "this fish will upset the balance of nature in Southeastern Florida..

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Homo sapiens guess who would lead the list for extinction because of disregard for the balance of nature? The wanton killing of the buffalo, eagle, Key deer, alligator, manatee, turtles and other animals both on land and sea has made government protection necessary. Man alone has done more to destroy the balance of nature than all other God's creatures put together.

Clarias would hardly rate with man for not only upsetting the balance of nature, but destroying it. with his toxic chemicals that pour into and poison waterways and oceans, until many forms of life have completely disappeared and others are fast following them, is man's method. His indiscriminate use of poisonous sprays do not control water hyacinths, but do poison fish and other aquatic plant life.

There are now many miles of Florida water-ways completely denuded and barren, of the fish and plants that were indigenous to this section of the country. More than any other form of animal life, man, is the greatest threat to the balance of nature.

The high-handed manner with which a complete family of fish was banned from importation without any consideration or contact for or with the industry most concerned, the Florida Tropical Fish Industry, and how Clarias, along with all other fish in the canals were killed before complete and factual information were known, is another example of bumbling bureaucracy at work,

CLARIAS BANN

by Kappy Sprenger
reprinted Aqua Jewels August 1968

Although I think that some states are handling the exotic problem poorly, I must be with them theoretically.

Remember the discovery of the living Coelacanth? It made headlines everywhere, and even people who knew and cared little about such things were interested and enthusiastic. That was because the fish was supposed to have become extinct so many thousands of years ago. That was impressive.

It is less impressive to view the present, to remember that although nature herself creates changes that leave some animals and plants unable to cope, the process usually takes a long, long time. Man made changes, like the releasing of imported creatures, do not take long to have effect. When there is time there is time for compensation, then there is

little time, there is not. It seems to be the rule in nature that if a natural predator is not present (over a generalized area) that would control a population explosion, that order of fish that is involved in the possible "explosion" will develop such a predator from it's own ranks.

Thus we have the *Belonesox* amongst the Poeciliids (live-bearers), the piranha of the Characins, the *dovii* of the Cichlids, and the many other species in these and other families that have evolved as predators from relatively mild beginnings.

There is balance in such evolution; if the predators do a thorough job of wiping out a high percentage of those on which they prey, they will soon run short of food, at which point they may starve, turn upon each other, or in a weakened state become the prey of something else. And, of course, once the predator population goes down by these natural occurrences, the fish they had preyed upon will start to flourish once more.

This is a very simplified example for the sake of clarity. Much more is really involved.

The Clarias catfish eats snails. Which might sound fine and dandy to some of us, if the snails have been invading our gardens. But, what if those snails are the basic food of a lovely and delicate bird whose presence we encourage in our gardens? Another way to say that is to ask whether anyone has yet found a substitute for the Eucalyptus leaves without which the adorable koala bear cannot live?

If the Clarias had moved slowly into Florida, without human help, and in small numbers, the hypothetical bird might have time to develop more diverse eating habits, thereby ensuring survival of the species. A natural predator upon the Clarias might have moved into Florida with it's prey. What are the natural predators upon such a fish? Possibly the raccoon, which is already there. But until questions like that can be answered, is it wise to allow introduction of a new and possibly uncontrollable animal.

Unfortunately, the banning of an exotic is apt to heighten it's appeal. Many people will want the creature just because it has been proclaimed "dangerous" or "undesirable". These are the very people who should not be allowed to own them; the chances are great that they will very soon tire of the novelty of caring for a pet that they have little true interest in. Then having "hot" property on their hands will unload it in the nearest ditch, canal, or pond. As long as the U.S. mail etc are sacrosanct, the fish cannot successfully be banned. The rights of personal property are part of our heritage. But along with the right must go the responsibilities of teaching our people to use those rights wisely.

FISH AND PHOTOGRAPHY

by Mike Goodall

Shortly after I had set up my first tank, I had the urge to photograph the contents. This was necessary if I was to keep some record of the fish; in my early days of fishkeeping some of my specimens did not live long.

I decided to buy the right equipment for the job, and purchased a single lens reflex camera and a small electronic flash gun, which together cost me fifty pounds.

Now a few details for anyone wishing to start this pastime. Firstly, a single lens reflex camera is the only type suitable for taking close-ups of individual fish, as you can see exactly what you are taking, (you view through the same lens that takes the picture). You are able to get the subject in focus, which is very difficult with other types of camera. To be able to get the fish in focus at close range you will need a set of extension tubes. These are screwed in between the lens of the camera (which is removable) and the body of the camera. The tubes enable you to get to about two inches from the fish.

For lighting normal flash bulbs can be used, but electronic flash is much better as it is faster and stops any movement of the fish. A cheap electronic flash can be bought for about seven pounds.

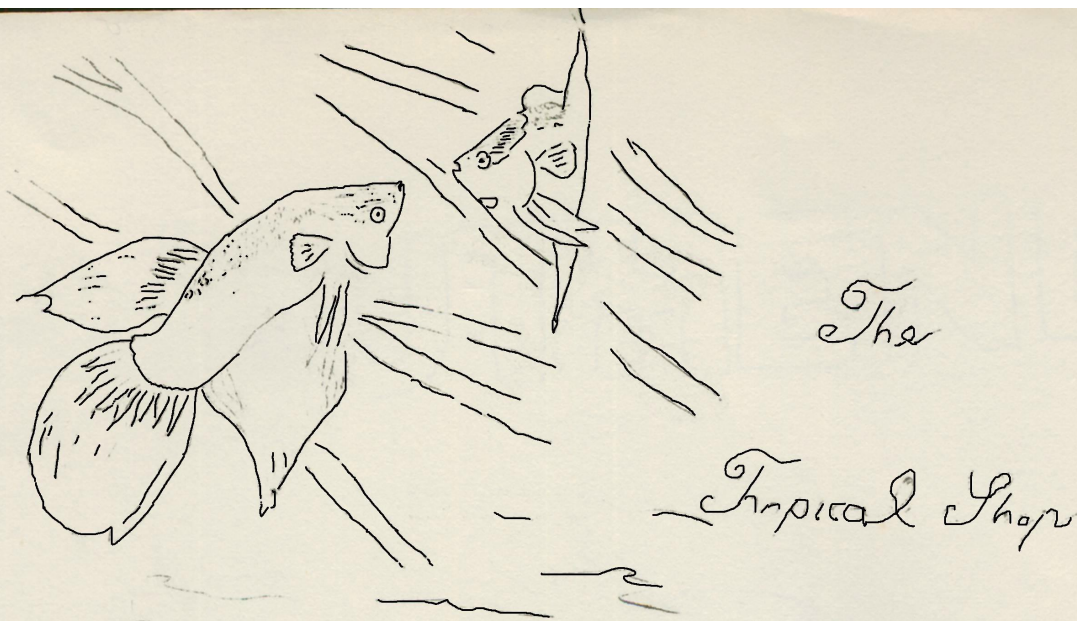
When photographing the fish, the flash has to be directed at an angle to the front of the tank, and the camera directed head-on to the glass. This way you do not get a reflection of the flash in the photo. If your flash lead does not reach the camera, you can buy an extension lead quite cheaply.

Exposure is a matter of experiment, but a good guide is to follow the details on the flash-gun, allowing one stop extra for the extension tubes.

Some photographs, however, can successfully be taken with cheaper kinds of cameras, but it must be remembered that only large areas of the tank can be photographed. Close-up lenses can be bought for almost all types of cameras, and for distances you should follow the chart sold with these lenses.

For cameras with flash-guns built into them, the normal set-up cannot be used, so you should point the camera at an angle to the front of the aquarium glass.

If any members wish to try this facet of our hobby, I shall be glad to give them any advice on the use of their existing equipment.



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TABLE SHOW POSITIONS

D.Edwards.....	34 points	R. Bloxham.....	5 points
R.Passmore.....	33 points	K. Ives.....	4 points
P.F .Capon.....	22 points	J. Norris.....	4 points
R. Wallings.....	17 points	M. Goodall.....	3 points
L. Mitchell.....	10 points	A. Huxter.....	3 points
S. Norris.«,....	10 points.	A. Bobbin.....	3 points
F. Hattam.....	13 points	R.Orford.....	2 points.
D. Cheswright.....	9 points	E. Thomson.....	2 points.
B.Dunn.....	8 points	T. Carter.....	1 point
D. Finch.....	7 points.	E.Russel.....	1 point.
A. J. Mason.....	6 points	T.King.....	1 point
R.Parker.....	6 points		

EXCHANGE REVIEWS.

We are unable to include our normal reviews of the exchange magazines in this issue as Steve and Jackie Norris were victims of the recent floods.

The Norris`s home was ruined not to mention the effect the cold water had on the fish house.

However, there is brighter news - S.L.A.D.A.S. Would like to congratulate Jackie and Steve on their new baby.



CLUB NEWS

Meeting September 3

Ed Niccol was our Guest lecturer, at this meeting -thanks Ed for stepping into the breach. The subject of Ed's talk was Unusual fishes. Ed. covered such fishes as the Bichir, *Analeps* (with it unusual reproductive difficulties), Goodeidae, Elephant Noses, and sleeper gobies. Unfortunately space precludes going into detail on Ed's talk,

The raffle was won by:-

- 1...Thermostat and heater.....Chris Cheswright.
- 2.. .Pair of blind cave fish.....L. Mitchell.

TABLE SHOW MINI-TANKS.

- 1.....R. Wallings.
- 2.....P.F. Capon.
- 3.....R.Wallings
- 4.....F. Hattam.

TABLE SHOW. PLANTS.

- 1..P.F. Capon.....,Bladder-wort.
- 2..P.F. Capon.....*Cryptocoryne*.
- 3..E. Thompson....Babies tears.
- 4..R. Passmore.....*E.radicans*

Meeting September 17.

The main event which took up the major part of the evening was a Bring and Buy.

The raffle was won by:-

- 1...John Harper.....*Copeina guttata*.
- 2...Dave Little.....Under gravel filter.
- 3...Tom Clark.....Under gravel filter.

EMERGENCY HEATER

If your heater and thermostat should fail a fan heater will maintain your aquarium at a reasonable temperature if it is controlled by hand, until repairs can be arranged.

SPECIAL MEETING September 24

This special general meeting was called to discuss the possibility of holding an Open show next year. The motion was proposed by Dave Edwards and seconded by Bob Passmore.

The motion was carried, unanimously.

The show committee was elected as follows:-

SHOW SECRETARYR.Passmore.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY .. R. Wallings.

ADVERTISING OFFICER....R.D.Orford.

ELECTRICS OFFICERS.....S. Norris & R. Nield.

GENERAL MEMBERS.....Messrs Bloxham.

A number of members names were put forward as being willing to help the Show Committee. The show date is provisionally May or June.

Meeting October 1

INTER-CLUB MEETING AT SOUTHEND

A.O.V TROPICAL

- 1...E. Niccol.....Thurrock.
- 2...Mr Harkings.....Thurrock.
- 3...Mr Green.....East London.
- 4...B. Dunn.....Southend.

A.O.V. COLDWATER.

- 1...R. Strudwick.....Thurrock,
- 2...R.Dodkins.....East London.
- 3.. S..Hendle.Thurrock.
- 4....R.Dodkins.....,.....East London.

CHARACINS

- 1...Mrs Armitage.....East London.
- 2...J.Boss.....East London
- 3...M. Goodall.....Southend.
- 4...G. Eaton.....Thurrock.

MOLLIES

- 1...D. Durrant.....Thurrock.
- 2...W. Corby.....East London.
- 3...G.Green.....East London.
- 4...D. Edwards.....Southend.

There were 71 entries in the Characin class, 27 in the A.O.V. class, 24 in the Molly class and 27 in the A.O.V. Coldwater class. The judges were Messrs Jessop and Stewart of the F.B.A.S,

I understand that our lecturer Mr Anthony Evans , editor of **Petfish Monthly**, gave a very interesting talk; unfortunately I was unable to listen Bob Orford "palmed" off a reporter from the Southend Standard on me. Still I getting my own back I have twisted Bob's arm and he's going to write an article on Mr Evans' talk for our next issue.

I should like to thank Mrs Reddington, Mrs Finch and Mrs Cooper for slaving away in the kitchen. Hope Tom didn't drive you too hard ladies !

The points gained by the clubs were as follows:-
EAST LONDON 18, THURROCK 18, SOUTHEND 4, BASILDON 0.

This gave the final positions for the whole contest:-
THURROCK 49, EAST LONDON 45, SOUTHEND 44, BASILDON 2

The trophy of a Gavel and Block was accordingly presented to the Chairman of Thurrock.

There is no truth in the rumour that Bob Orford got the salt water for his new Marine tank from Dave Edwards' copious tears. Dave really wanted to shut up that second meeting that always appears to start at the back of the hall with a sharp bang on that gavel and block.

Meeting October 15

The suprise slide show advertised in our program for this evening turned out to be a slide quiz arranged by Bob Orford and Mike Goodall. This quiz was won by Frank Hattam with 22 points, second J.Prockter with 21 points, and third Norman Sellers with 20 points; the total points attainable were 27.

TABLE SHOW FRY REARING

- 1...K. Ives.....Molly.
- 2...D. Finch.....Molly.
- 3...R. Bloxham.....Molly.
- 4...M Goodall.....Leeri.

Where were all the fry that were handed out on the 18th of June, if only half of them had been returned for the judging the bench would have been overflowing. - mixture of Mollies, Leeris, and schuberti barbs were handed out very few leeris were brought for judging and no schubertis. This fry rearing competition is intended to enable members to demonstrate what good fishkeepers they are !

The raffle was won by:-

- 1..Bob Passmore.....18 by 10 tank and hood.
- 2...L. Mitchell.....Schuberti barbs.

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

The meeting took place at Don Finch's; 165, Bull Lane, Rayleigh on the 29th of September.

Present were;- President, Secretary, Treasurer, Bob Passmore, Don Finch, Tom King, Peter Capon, Bob Wallings, Steve Norris, and Bob Orford, with apologies from Jack Reddington.

The treasurer said that he would send off for more books in the "Enjoy" series. It was agreed that we try and find someone to take over the slide library.

The Secretary confirmed that he had approached the ZOO to arrange a visit on an .aquarist Sunday, the Zoological Society suggested we write again in December or January for a booking in May.

The visit to Four Ways Tropical Aquarium was arranged.

Bob Waitings agreed to make arrangements for the Social Evening to be held at the Bell Hotel on the 16th of December.

Bob Orford suggested that S.L.A.D.A.S. might consider entering a float in the 19^9 Southend Carnival.

AQUATIC AIDS

by P.F..Capon.

In our last issue I promised to let you know the composition of the Sherley .Aquatic Aids now on the market. Aid Number 1 - Acriflavine. .Aid number 2 --Methylene Blue, Aid Number 3 — probably Phenoxetol but I have not tested this one, it is extremely cheap for phenoxetol (anyone like to give me No 3 to enable me to test it?), .Aid Number 4 a solution of COPPER in Sulphuric acid (admittedly dilute) .Aid N° 5 Potasium chlorate tablets, A.id No 6 Cationic surfactant probably Alky ammonium bromide & Aid No 7 Sodium thiosulphate.

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